

Music

The music department has been working hard this year to produce some really magical and mesmerising performances.

Remembrance

The whole school, as well as Old Riponians and guests, gathered in the school grounds to remember the victims of World War One.

Charity Week

Our annual Charity Week took place in October supporting Saint Michael's Hospice.

Issue 50 Autumn 2018

RGS News



O Holy Night



Specialist Schools and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER



Dear Parents,

Once again we have a bumper edition of RGS News for you to read over the festive period. Thank you to Mrs Hargraves and Mrs Savage for drawing together so well the articles for this edition. No doubt as you are settling down to read it, with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie by your side, the log fire burning bright, you will also be reaching for your copy of 'O Holy Night' to fill the air with a traditional and avant garde mix of carols, sung so well by our RGS choral ensembles.

On 16 November we held our Senior Prize Giving and Speech Day. It was, as always, a delight to meet our leaving students who came back to collect their prizes and tell us about how well they are settling in to university life, as well as displaying a touch of nostalgia for their former days at RGS. Of course they will always be Old Riponians and a visit back to us, at any time, is always welcome.

Our principal guest this year was Sir Gary Verity, who spoke with great wit and verve. His message was about seizing the opportunities that life presents and pursuing one's vision. Sir Gary exemplified this by recounting how his vision and drive to make Yorkshire known on the world map led to the securing of the Grand Depart in 2014. While Yorkshire puddings and Yorkshire beer didn't seem to convince the Tour De France committee, reference to the humble Yorkshire Terrier, a canine staple it seems of French domestic life, seemed to clinch the deal. 'Never give up' was Sir Gary's watchword.

As I write we are heading towards the end of term we have House Drama to look forward to and of course our annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in Ripon Cathedral on 18 December. I do hope you were able to join us.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Jonathan M Webb (Headmaster)

School Council Update

Recently, both the senior leadership team and the school council have been working together in the effort to reduce waste around the school. This has been achieved in many ways, allowing for more efficient recycling to reduce the school's impact on our local environment. Due to a developing conscience for the environment, reusing of materials has also been encouraged in other aspects of school life.

Perhaps the most significant of all is the introduction of more red recycling bins around school. They have been placed in key areas, like the food hall and outside eating area, to increase their effectiveness. Now, as a student, we can discard waste food into the green Biffa bins and then recycle your plastic/cardboard waste. The school awareness of this addition was increased by assemblies on the new system to try and integrate it as much as possible into school life. The work of head girl, Sola Sowole, alongside the senior leadership team has been key in allowing this to happen. After identifying problems with the old bins, where there was confusion regarding which bin to use, they have successfully clarified this by changing the waste system. There was a relatively high cost for these additions, so money was raised via the 'Bags for School' event. Its success led to the hope for future activities to raise money for more waste reducing systems around the school. A small but noticeable difference for students is the creation of pen recycling points in most classrooms. Led by Dr Piggott, this has helped to decrease the vast discarding of pens during school. For many people involved with Ripon Grammar School this is seen as a clear improvement of the school environment.

On another topic, new water refill points have been added, for example in the new humanities block. This has been added to fit the size of the school water bottles, in the hope of encouraging the reuse of plastic bottles around school. This can serve as a bonus to students not having to incur extra costs by buying bottles of water daily. Over the past year this has helped to reduce the volume of plastic bottles used and therefore the volume discarded daily.

Overall, although some changes have been relatively small, the work of many people, both students and staff alike, has allowed an improvement of the school environment. This has been influential in promoting a clean ethos around the school and is seen as a way to encourage hard work both in academic and sporting fields. With these small changes, the school, now Silver rated for its environmental policy, has successfully worked towards a clear conscience with all involved within the school appreciating its benefits.

Seb Lyons, L6F

MANDARIN GCSE

This year saw the full introduction of the new GCSE 9-1 grading scheme across most subjects.

For some this was a challenging prospect but not for ambitious Second Form student, Lucy-Mae Musgrove, who undertook her GCSE Mandarin externally at Prince Henry's Grammar School. The structure of the exam was like all other GCSE languages we offer at RGS. It is split into four sections; speaking, listening, reading and writing. Lucy managed to achieve a coveted grade A* and only dropped five of the three hundred marks available across all her papers - a tremendous achievement considering it was not part of her education within this school.



hello
你好

She began learning Mandarin from the age of two due to the language being very tonal and children pick up languages better at an early age.

Her father believes that China will at some point overtake the USA economy to be the world 'number one' and so anyone who can speak Mandarin will be in prime position for the future. Neither of her parents can speak Mandarin and so she had to be tutored weekly with extra sessions in the run-up to exams. Lucy also attended two Chinese schools to help her development of the language. This opportunity took place over a weekend and was primarily meant for Chinese heritage children and greatly benefitted Lucy's learning.

Lucy said that by learning Mandarin she has enriched her understanding of other languages, such as French and Spanish as after learning one language she says she knows the basic structure in which to aid her with all other languages. This being said, Mandarin is one of the toughest languages to learn as it uses symbols rather than letters, such as 'Hello' which looks like 你好. She is studying French and German at GCSE and says she finds them much more straightforward.

Lucy is hoping to continue her education of Mandarin, although not necessarily with the intention of taking an A Level in the subject and believes that the key to studying any language is to stick with it. Mandarin is now the most spoken language in the world with over 1 billion people speaking it, giving Lucy an advantage that most students at RGS won't have. RGS does not offer Mandarin currently but perhaps it is something that the school could consider for the future.

Tabitha Milton, L6G and Jessica Pawley, L6B

LOWER SIXTH EDINBURGH ART TRIP



Recently, the Lower Sixth Art students travelled to Edinburgh with the aim of experiencing a wide range of art, and hoping to inspire and influence their own pieces, which they will do as part of their AS exams next summer.

On the journey they stopped off at the coastal towns of Berwick, Dunbar, and Eyemouth, with the varying coastal scenes providing inspiration and making for some great photographs.

They visited multiple art galleries and museums in Edinburgh, including the Scottish national gallery of modern art, where they thoroughly enjoyed the Emil Nolde exhibition, a German artist from the World War periods. They also went to the Scottish national portrait gallery, which provided a real range in styles of art, from much older paintings of monarchs to modern art in the form of portraiture.

The students all travelled to Glasgow on the Saturday, and here visited the Glasgow museum of modern art, and the Sharmanka kinetic gallery and theatre. Here they watched a 40 minute showing of Eduard Bersudsky's mechanical sculptures coming to life.

Evening activities included the renowned ghost tours of Edinburgh, visiting the grave of Greyfriars bobby, and the chilling underground rooms in the old bridge, while other nights offered a tour of Edinburgh's old town, rich with history.

The trip also provided students with so many amazing photo opportunities, something which feeds largely into their progressive work. They also had time to do a few field sketches, particularly enjoyed by many of the students.

Isla Sloan, L6C



INTERNATIONAL STUDY VISIT

On 13th and 14th November our school was visited by Dr Kalanayackar, a Director and Senior Principal at Yuvabharathi Global School, Erode, Tamilnad, India and Mr Dewan, senior manager at Dewan Public School International, Meerut, India.



As part of the international programme 'EduExcellence' based in Delhi, they visited Ripon Grammar School to find out how British students interact with the education system and they garnered some ideas to implement in their schools in India. They also visited local primary schools as well as exploring Ripon and the surrounding area.

Here they were introduced to staff and advised of their approaches to learning, had a tour of the school to visit a variety of lessons and subjects and met with the School Council and School Officers. We interviewed them about their schools, finding that India's education system is similar to the UK's with examinations that span the entire country at GCSE level and A Level. Lessons are taught in English as well, due to the variety of dialects across the country. The largest difference is the pupils' subject choices; in both Dr Kalanayackar and Mr Dewan's schools the majority of students take science subjects, the most popular careers being Medicine and Engineering (there are 63,000 places in India for studying medicine at a higher level there are only approximately 9,000 in the UK). They acknowledged the need to encourage the study of humanity subjects is part of the reason they have visited the UK. The option to study abroad is also attractive with Dr Kalanayackar's own son currently studying Business at Exeter University. The schools are also much larger, with Dr Kalanayackar managing six schools ranging from 1500-6,000 students and Mr Dewan helping oversee 18,000 students and 1,000 staff on a campus three times the size of ours.

When asked what ideas they have gained from the visit, they replied the value of sport, noting that in India interest in sport drops after GCSE level. They want to implement it as a relaxing activity, away from academic subjects, acknowledging 'Indian students are a lot more stressed'. When asked if they had enjoyed their visit here they replied in the affirmative, saying it had been a brilliant opportunity; not only had the programme brought the teachers together from a distance 4000km apart, but also provided a beneficial insight into the UK education system.

Poppy Robinson, U6B

Education expert Andrew Mackle, who organised the shadowing programme, explains how the scheme, run with Delhi-based EduExcellence, has grown in recent years.

"The key aim of my engagement with EduExcellence is to offer a quality approach to comparative education - putting schools and their communities in touch with each other with the opportunity to learn from each other.

"The first visit in May 2018 was very much a 'visit and learn' experience, with short visits to a number of schools in the Middlesbrough area. It included a cultural experience in London.

"The second visit this November has deepened the work to include a 'shadowing experience' giving colleagues from Indian schools the opportunity to spend two days studying in more depth the working of schools in our education system. They were focusing their attention on how schools moved from strategy to practice.

"The plan is to arrange two visits each year from new groups with a view that EduExcellence will offer a reciprocal programme to any interested UK colleagues at some point in the second half of next year.

"The Indian group were this time based in North Yorkshire - in both Ripon and York. They requested visits to a range of schools and, when made aware Ripon had a grammar school, there was significant interest for a 'shadowing' opportunity to be made available. Their understanding and respect for grammar school status was discussed and the school's excellent reputation and high academic standards attracted a lot of attention.

"RGS's work with EduExcellence could, potentially, lead to opportunities for further visits by senior educationalists and possible student exchanges," he said.

The visiting group will now present their findings from the study visit at a major International Conference to be held in Delhi in late December.

MUSIC



The music department has been working hard this year to produce some really magical and mesmerizing performances.

It has been an exciting year so far for the RGS music department. The term took off with all senior choirs performing at the Holy Trinity charity concert for Christian Aid, we performed alongside other choirs and ensembles from the surrounding area for a captivated audience. Holy Trinity Church has raised over £10,000 for Christian Aid which aims to end poverty and injustice worldwide and we were honoured to be a part of this.

The Autumn concert lived up to high expectations providing a truly spectacular display of the ensembles RGS has to offer. As usual the autumn concert began with all first years singing three songs including the classic 'O Re I Me'. A comedic twist was added to the events as players from the Under-13 rugby team returning from a match rushed onto stage still in muddy kits. The Percussion Ensemble, a brand-new club led by former student and current music technician Tilly Fallows, had its impressive debut performing Samba Sandwich. This was followed by a spell-binding performance from clarinet soloist Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla, who is currently working towards her diploma. The evening was also filled with delight by a musical blast of La La Land by Wind Band, the Junior Strings in top form and a passionate performance of 'How Can I Keep From Singing' by the Senior Girls' Choir. Thanks to the kind donations of the audience the concert raised over £700 to kick start the Charity Week fundraising.

The chamber choir's first Choral Evensong at Ripon Cathedral of the year was magical, being a part of this tradition as always was an honour. The wonderful acoustics in the cathedral make it a fantastic place to sing. They sang music appropriate for the season, notably Edward Elgar's 'They are at Rest'

Man choir continues to impress with heart-warming numbers and on the 9th of December will perform a Beatles medley at the book launch of former MP Alan Johnson's autobiography, we are sure it will be a roaring success.

At the moment the music department is gearing up for the forthcoming merry season, preparing jolly jingles and carols for the Christmas concert on Thursday 13 December and the Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols on Tuesday 18 December. Following their success last year Big Band is doing another primary school outreach where they perform festive pieces and Director of Music Mr Seymour interactively teaches younger students about the instruments within the band.

The creation of the 'O Holy Night CD' produced by Mr Seymour, Mrs Morpeth and Mrs Sladden is a true show case of Ripon Grammar's five choirs. The choral Christmas CD can be purchased via the Friends of Ripon Grammar School and from reception at school.

Rafaella Shiers, L6E

An Inspector Calls

At the beginning of the school year, Fifth Year English Literature students travelled to York Theatre Royale to watch Stephen Daldry's production of J B Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*.

The play, focused on the events and story unfolding after an inspector knocking at the Birling family's door implicates each member of the family with their involvement with regard to the death of a young and vulnerable working class woman, offered a thought-provoking and somewhat shocking insight into the social class dominated society of the 1900s.

Daldry's radical staging of the moral thriller allowed pupils to explore Priestley's socialist views in relation to a post-war Britain. Fifth former Liberty Robinson felt that watching the play further conveyed and highlighted the issues facing the working class in the 20th century Britain, with Daldry's staging techniques presenting "alternative and more in depth perspectives on the plot of the play". Another fifth year student, Diyosa Matthews, said she was "grateful" to have been offered the opportunity to watch the play in person and felt that it had "furthered [her] knowledge and interest on the play".

This world famous production was the perfect opportunity for the GCSE students to gain additional depth of knowledge in relation to both the plot of the play that they have been studying and also Priestley's social and political intentions surrounding his play.

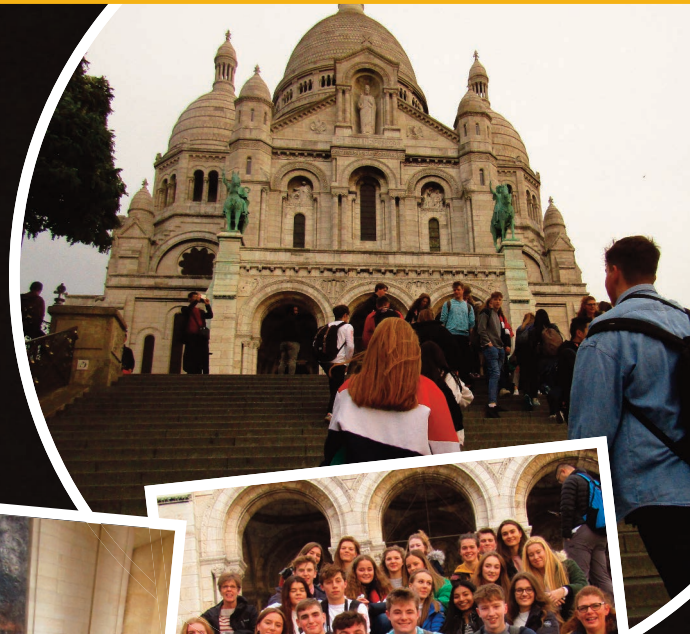
The theatre trip exemplified the harsh realities of life for both working class and upper middle class families during the early 20th century and enabled pupils to develop their own understanding and interpretation of the play and its messages.

Flora Manik, L6A



ENGLISH

PARIS 2018



ART

Despite the early start, it was an excited group of art students who met in the bus park at 5.30am on 8 November, ready for the long journey to Paris.

The surprisingly smooth journeys from York to Kings Cross, then from St Pancras to the Gare du Nord, saw us arrive at the Generator hostel tired but eager to explore the city.

Our first stop was the Musée d'Orsay, an amazing old railway station turned gallery, where we saw some incredible works of art, from Van Gogh to Picasso. We spent the rest of the afternoon in the gallery, sketching and taking photographs as we went. Although we were struggling to prove the merits of the art to Mr Auger, he was impressed by the architecture; the iconic clock above the huge hall was certainly striking. Before we left, we each looked round the gallery's Picasso exhibition, entitled *Bleu et Rose*. I was struck by the sheer volume of artwork Picasso produced in his lifetime: this exhibition, spread over several rooms, was just a tiny fraction of his work. After this, we walked along the Seine to a restaurant opposite the Pompidou for some much-needed food, before returning to the hostel.

The next day proved to be the most tiring of our three days in Paris. First, we went up to the Sacré Cœur in Montmartre, where we had the most amazing view of Paris in the morning light, taking photos of the street art on the way. This was one of the most memorable moments of the trip for me, seeing the city from such an inspiring place. After making the most of the photo opportunity, we had a guided tour of the Picasso Museum, which certainly altered our perception of the artist: it became clear that his work was far more diverse and varied than the typical images of warped faces which most people associate with him.

Following this, we went to look round the Louvre, where we saw the *Mona Lisa* and *Athanasius Kircher* (by Anselm Keifer), amongst many other impressive pieces. However, we only had time to look around a small part of the museum before our evening meal at Bouillon Chartier, which I can only describe as a very French experience! This wasn't the end of our busy day, though. After the meal, we walked to the Eiffel Tower and took a boat ride along the Seine. From the boat we could see the Notre-Dame, the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay, amongst many other iconic Parisian landmarks.

We walked over ten miles on Friday, but Saturday was greeted with (almost) the same level of enthusiasm, despite the rain which persisted for half of the day. We started the day at the Musée de l'Orangerie, which houses Monet's *Water Lilies*. These were certainly some of my favourite pieces of art on the trip, with a combination of the scale and the techniques creating six unforgettable paintings. After spending the rest of the morning in the other half of the gallery, followed by lunch, we went to the Musée d'Art Moderne, where we saw an incredible exhibition of Zao Wou-Ki's work. The striking way he captures the light in his paintings didn't quite manage to impress Mr Auger, but the rest of us were amazed at the artist's work.

Our final visit was to the Centre Pompidou. From the top of the building, we could see the Eiffel Tower as it was lit up on the hour, and this provided a great end to an amazing trip. The journey home the next day was long, but Paris had certainly been worth it.

Isobel Bremner, U6E

Astronomy Trip

Due to the exciting and practical, real world element to the GCSE Astronomy course, there was a trip to Manchester to visit Jodrell Bank in the hope of developing students' understanding of solar system exploration.

The trip was an action-packed day, in which the students and staff, led by Mr Barker and Miss Green of the Physics department, left early to make the most of the amazing opportunity. Upon arrival, they looked round the vast expanse of gardens, which gave them first-hand views of some of its massive spectacles, including the Lovell telescope which is 90 metres in length. Around this radio telescope they discovered the size and magnitude of the equipment used in this field, adding perspective to the course. They followed this with a practice experiment to show how astronomers locate distant planets around stars, something they found truly interesting. As a key part of their course, this really gave an insight into how astronomers carry out their role. Following this, they visited the planetarium, where a talk was given with visual aids to show the night sky and the interesting features of it.

Ben Haffenden, 5D, was a student on the trip and gave his account of the day trip.

"We left in the morning so that we could get to Manchester early to see and do everything at Jodrell Bank. We started by walking around the gardens which gave us a view of the other telescopes at the observatory apart from the famous Lovell telescope. We saw from a distance how large the Lovell telescope actually is. Then we got closer to the base of the radio telescope to see how tall it is. There were dishes set up so that you could whisper in one and someone standing at the other one, 100ft away, could hear the other person perfectly. There was also a demonstration showing how the faster a planet spins, its equator gets larger. We then went into a lesson to learn about how they detect planets orbiting other stars and calculating how large those planets would be. We also did a practical test using a bulb, 'blu tac' and string to demonstrate how they detect exoplanets. We were also told how Jodrell Bank will become the HQ for the 'square kilometre array' which will be the most powerful telescope array in the world when it is completed. After the lesson we walked around the 'space pavilion' which has many exhibits including facts about the Lovell telescope, such as how its dish is 250ft in diameter and how it was heavily involved in the discovery of Quasars. We later went into an inflatable planetarium where we were shown around the night sky with some of its interesting features".

As a key hope of a practical based course, this trip was seen as a great way to endorse students' understanding outside of the classroom, with it bringing real world perspective to an already exciting course. The experiences gained from seeing the telescopes up close and in true size gave all students present a chance to understand the subject on a deeper level, whilst complementing their forthcoming examination. One other student present, Oscar Lees, said that the day was "eye opening and definitely worthwhile", believing the trip gave depth to the course and added to his passion for it.

Overall, it seemed like it was a very worthwhile and fun day out for teachers and students alike, with the trip really helping to cement the students' understanding of the course and the possibilities for the future in a very interesting area of study.

Seb Lyons, 16F



FRIENDS OF RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL



I am very happy to say that we have been able to fund over £23,500 of bids during the last school year.

The main donations have been £5k for the minibus, £4k for the new projector and screen in the main hall, £3k for the stage lighting area and £4k on tables and chairs for exams, but many departments and clubs have benefitted from our funds.

Artwork by Emma Money, U6B

I hope you are all enjoying listening to the fantastic CD "O Holy Night". We were delighted to work closely with the music department in funding the production of the first CD by Ripon Grammar School students. I am sure you will agree the standard of the performances on the CD are excellent, a testament to the talented singers within the School and the hard work put in by the staff to bring their voices to us all. But don't worry if you haven't got your copy, they will be available until the stocks run out.

We were also pleased to host a First Year Family Quiz for the first time at RGS. The hall was packed with families prepared to answer a series of challenging questions with the Chicken Nuggets coming out on top, well done!

Although we haven't had many requests for funding this term, one which I hope you can all enjoy is the purchase of oak frames to display the students' art throughout the school. I sure you will agree we have many talented artists and it is always interesting to see their work on display.

I would like to thank Mr Barker for running the hugely popular Astronomy Nights again. In 2019 they will be held on the 15th and 17th January. Tickets will go on sale when we return in the New Year - places are limited so keep an eye on your inbox.

Don't forget to snap some winter or Christmas scenes over the holidays for the Christmas Card Photographic Competition.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work, to all the volunteers who helped serve refreshments and the parents who provided us with delicious baking especially the many mince pies we need at this time of year. I would also like to thank all the busy parents who have found time to support our events, we can only provide school with the funds they need for those extras that benefit all our children with your continued support.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Tracy Butterfield, Chair, Friends of RGS Email: friends@ripongrammar.com

200 CLUB WINNERS

May	1st	165	F Henson	Aug	1st	177	J Bradley
	2nd	226	K Vollans		2nd	129	F Laycock
June	1st	172	J Bradley	Sept	1st	93	H Cook
	2nd	11	M Hartas		2nd	132	R Lockey
July	1st	38	E Cushing	Oct	1st	172	J Bradley
	2nd	139	E Dewar		2nd	42	L Webb

Bonus Draws for 2017/18 - 12 draws of £30 each:

38-E Cushing, 76-B Titchmarsh, 88-A Bowe, 97-L Borchard, 140-B Titchmarsh, 147-M Feingold, 162-F Hanson, 164-F Hanson, 171-S Gibson, 188-M Arnold, 216-K Vollans, 226-K Vollans

CHARITY WEEK



Our annual charity week took place from the 22nd- 26th October. This year we chose to support Saint Michael's Hospice in its amazing work, a charity very close to our pupils' hearts.

Saint Michael's Hospice exists to help people with a terminal illness through offering specialist care, comfort and support, free of charge, to patients and their families. Our money will go to funding to providing nursing, accommodation and end of life care for the patients.

On the run up to charity week the whole school was involved in learning about the charity; with Beth from Saint Michael's Hospice coming to speak in assembly, the Upper School creating presentations in their forms, and the Sixth Form making ribbons to attach to blazers. The school officers also went to visit St Michael's hospice in its stunning location on the edge of Harrogate. Through touring the grounds, we saw the incredible work they do, from dog visitations to providing accommodation for families in their darkest hours, to memorials on the site's grounds.

Charity week itself opened with a superb performance by Higgy Rascal & Crew and throughout the week activities and performances were held at lunchtimes and break to raise money. The highlights of the week included the Chase with a surprising final round, Zorb football where students and staff got involved as part of a House competition. Both the School Officer Dance and the Sixth Form Dance Battle were definitely routines to remember as was Friday's impromptu DJ. Whilst Sumo Wrestling and the Obstacle Course provided entertainment for all year groups. As always, the RGS panto, this year Shrek, gave us all many laughs.

The after-school activities garnered lots of interest as well. This year the First and Second Form, together with some staff, enjoyed the Greatest Showman at the film night, whilst on Wednesday the Fifth Form had the opportunity to try out the Obstacle Course. Everyone took in part in the non-uniform day on Friday, as well as each form running stalls which ranged from selling doughnuts to staff baby photos. Not to mention the first-year cake stalls!

The school officers would like to thank everyone who took part in charity week, staff and pupils. With the charity Christmas cracker still to come, we are looking at having raised a total over £10,000 for Saint Michael's Hospice.

Poppy Robinson, U6B



Swimming for Charity

Members of 4C took part in a sponsored swim as part of their charity week contribution.

Their form tutors, Dr Dekanski and Mrs Mackenzie, wanted the students to challenge themselves so that as well as raising lots of money, which was obviously the ultimate target, they also felt that they had achieved something.

Mr Bruce set the fundraising ball rolling by running the York marathon the Sunday before charity week started. We decided to try and SWIM a marathon, as well as each of us pledging to raise at least £10.

Mrs Mackenzie worked out that 26.2 miles equated to 2,100 lengths of the RGS pool – an average of 73 per swimmer. Obviously, some students are stronger swimmers than others and they offered to swim more lengths to accommodate this.

Dr Dekanski was unable to swim due to a shoulder injury, but she watched us during her lunch hour as we plodded up and down the pool. She also donated £1 to every swimmer to kick-start our sponsorship campaign and provide us with a snack for once we had completed our efforts.

We swam throughout lunchtime and during all of our PE lesson. Mrs Mackenzie swam too, adding 160 lengths to our total. We needed to complete 2100 lengths to achieve our marathon challenge – we managed 2131. A huge cheer went up when Mrs Mackenzie announced the total.

It was then time to collect the sponsor money. Everyone achieved the £10 target, many surpassed it. The total we raised from our swim was £375 which goes to show that when you pull together you can achieve incredible things. Thank you to Mr Harding for lifeguarding for us.

As well as contributing to the marathon swim, Ella Foster set up her own marathon challenge, aiming to run 100km in a fortnight. She created a 'just giving' page with the funds going directly to Saint Michael's Hospice. To date her individual total stands at an unbelievable £1,500. Well done Ella – 4C are very proud.

Ronnie Mann and Lucy Cox, 4C



BAR MOCK TRIAL - JUDGEMENT DAY



After weeks of preparation 17th of November, Judgement Day, had arrived. The Bar Mock Trial team set out at 7:50am for Leeds Crown Court led by the courageous Mr Walker. Once we arrived we surveyed our opponents as 13 other regional schools stood between us and being the winners of the Bar Mock Trial Yorkshire competition.

We had, beforehand, been given two cases to learn, understand and memorise. The first case consisted of a defendant being charged with a malicious acid attack, however, this could potentially have been a case of mistaken identity. The second was a hairdresser charged with two counts of money laundering after being possibly tricked by one of her clients. We were supported in this process by Mr Bean, a barrister himself whom volunteered his services to help us discuss the cases and organise the procedure. His advice and guidance motivated us throughout and his support on the day was greatly appreciated.

In the morning we re-enacted 3 cases against other schools and after a quick lunch the tension built as we waited anxiously for the results. In the face of an early bus journey home and much to our shock we found that we had made it to the final two! We hurriedly and nervously prepared for the final face down performing as the defence for case 2. The final case was a challenging one as both finalist schools watched on while the prosecution and defence barristers battled it out.

The judge deliberated and was sincerely complimentary to both schools but concluded that we were victorious, winning the final.

This experience allowed students interested in law to learn about different roles within the court procedure. These included parts such as barristers who had to write their own opening and closing statements along with planning questions for cross-examination. Other roles included ushers, court clerks and acting as witnesses where you were put under fire in cross-examination from fierce barristers.

Thank you to Mr Walker for organising and supporting us throughout the process along with being our number one fan, and also to Mrs Locke for cheering us on the day.

We are delighted to say that the bar mock trial team will be travelling to the Court of Sessions in Edinburgh in March to compete against other regional winners for the national finals of the bar mock trial competition.

Rafaella Shiers, L6E



For most students, the prospect of an interview was a fairly daunting prospect and many approached their meeting with the representatives with some trepidation. Most were held as conventional interviews, face to face with an employer matched to areas in which they are hoping to work and study, whilst a number of others experienced the increasingly familiar form of Skype interviews. Whilst some may have been a little nervous about what the interview would be like, all students seemed to come away with big smiles, saying how helpful the experience had been in reality and how useful the feedback and opportunity to chat and network with the employers had been for them.

We are enormously grateful to all of the interviewers, many of whom have been supporting our Careers activities for a number of years, and we hope for many years to come.

Mrs Locke and Mr Walker, Careers Department

PRACTICE INTERVIEWS

Practice Interviews have been organised once again for this year's Lower Sixth, with the first of the three days having taken place in November.

Forty students experienced a thirty-minute interview with interviewers representing a very diverse range of career areas, including the environment, armed forces, engineering, finance, business, media and medicine and clinical careers. The process is linked with preparation and applications to employers for work experience and all students have been busy drawing up CV's and speculative letters to employers in readiness for their forthcoming week in July 2019.





MEDICAL SCHOOL INTERVIEWS

Mock medical interviews

Competition for places on the more popular university courses can be fierce especially for highly competitive courses such as medicine.

Candidates must pass the UKCAT and/or BMAT assessments as well as perform well in an interview. The careers department at RGS help to prepare potential students for this rather laborious process. To this end, on Wednesday 14th November, I took part, along with others from the Sixth Form, in the Medical Mini interviews.

There is no standard format to these medical school interviews and they seem to be very different from a standard interview. The questions included ones relating to ethical dilemmas a medic may have to resolve. In such questions, it is not uncommon for there to be no correct answer, it was very much a case of going with what felt to be the fairest, most realistic and ethical solution. Other questions involved explaining complex subjects in simple terms a 6 year old would perhaps understand, listing the pros and cons of controversial treatments and the qualities that make a good doctor. Our interviewers were all highly knowledgeable and experienced professionals and we were grateful to them for taking the time to help us. For each answer we gave, they gave written feedback on how we did. We also had a chance to speak with some of the various guests and ask questions we may have had about the profession, issues and news surrounding medicine. I feel that having this chance to experience an example interview really benefitted me and hopefully will equip me well for the university application challenges that might lie ahead.

George Morris L6B

A daunting thought that turned into a great experience I would not have missed.

The MMIs held kindly by local GPs and Health care professionals gave an accurate representation of what the experience will be like in the future for the aspiring medics of RGS. The afternoon consisted of a brief talk about what we might expect and then our afternoon split into two. Firstly, we had a group discussion with two of the professionals, which allowed us to ask any questions we may have, and they also helped us brush up on our facts and knowledge about the NHS and ethics within it.

Secondly, the dreaded interview. This consisted of six stations all testing our different knowledge and qualities. For example there was a role play station to test our ability to communicate and to see how we interact with people. This was an invaluable experience due to the increasing number of universities using this technique to interview candidates. On top of this, medicine is one of the most competitive areas so by practising the interview stage greatly improved our confidence for the future.

I would reiterate how beneficial the afternoon was and I am sure that the effort put in was greatly appreciated by all students.

Jessica Pawley, L6B



Apprenticeship Fairs

Since the recent introduction of Degree Apprenticeships being added to the well-established Higher Apprenticeships already being offered to young people, and the huge growth in the number of employers and universities who are supporting this, a growing number of our students have shown interest in finding out more about what this would comprise.

We took twelve of our students to the National Apprenticeship Fair held in Harrogate in September, where they had a chance to chat with employers from across a diverse range of employment areas and to find out more about apprenticeships and what this could offer them. A further eight students visited the Apprenticeship and HE Fair held at Sheffield Hallam University in October, with several other students choosing to make their own way to the Engineering Apprenticeship Show at the Roundhouse in Derby during half-term.

Students have been very interested to learn about the advantages offered by gaining these highly sought after roles, whereby they are able to study alongside gaining real working experience, in addition to earning good salaries and to avoiding debt by having university fees paid for by employers. We are looking forward to watching the progress of all of these students, who are taking such a keen interest in these new and exciting opportunities and wish them every success in their applications.

Mrs Locke and Mr Walker, Careers Department

SPORT NEWS



Girls' round-up

This Autumn RGS saw a very busy start to the school year, with over 65 sports fixtures in over 25 different competitions- including RGS representation in area, regional, national and international competitions.

Major headlines for girls' teams include the U18 hockey team who won the northern round of the SBF competition and will go on to represent the north of England at the national finals. Alongside this their team has qualified for the second round of the national schools competition, whilst both the U14 and U16 hockey teams have made it to the north East finals of the national schools competition.

More success for the U18s showed in the netball team, who have qualified for the county finals of the national schools competition, as well as 'Round 2' in the national knockout tournament.

In the lower school Marnie Scatchard, who plays for the North East England Hockey team, and Libby Wilson have both been selected for the U15s Leeds Rhinos Netball Academy.

The junior and inter girls are joined by the junior boys team in their qualification for the regional finals in the cross-country cup. This will take place in late November and the teams will be racing in the hope of making it to the national finals. Meanwhile all students in the First to Fourth forms participated in the House cross country competition.

2018 CHAMPIONS

First Form: Nia Peedel & George Curtis

Third Form: Marnie Scatchard & Alex Glegg

Second Form: Olivia Vollans & Archie Bordewich

Fourth Form: Molly Acton & Jake Haslam

Seniors: Toby Antcliff & Mena Scatchard

Since then, the individual cross-country competition has taken place in Skipton. Top girls' positions included Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla in second place of the senior girls and Marnie Scatchard in third place in the inter-girls. They will go on to the North-Yorkshire round along with Phoebe Hall (senior) and Molly Acton (inter) in the hopes of selection for the English Schools cross-country finals. Meanwhile the Third Form girls and inter girls won the team competition, as did the Second Form boys. Top boys results included second and fourth place from Archie Bordewich and Isaac Henson (both Second Form) and third and fourth place in the senior boys from Toby Antcliff and Archie Lawson respectively.



Talented cyclist and triathlete Abi Smith has earned her place among the top eight junior cyclists in Great Britain, with her selection to be part of the GB Junior Academy. As part of her selection, Abi had to compete against 60 other riders in a national series of 30 km races over 3 days. Now on the GB team she has attended an induction training camp in Manchester where she got to know her team mates and coach over a series of workshops lasting 7 days over the half term. These included track and road training sessions, gym sessions and workshops focused on improving technique and training plans. All the best to Abi and her forthcoming competitions as a GB athlete.



In October, Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla ran her GB debut, orienteering in the Swiss Alps at the Junior European Cup. Having been in the GB Talent Squad for one year now, a series of six national selection races lead to her qualification as one of four athletes in the under 18s team. Facing three consecutive races in three different disciplines, Anika achieved her best result in the sprint race where she finished in 6th place just 10 seconds behind the leader. In the face of leading athletes from all over Europe this was an unexpected yet thrilling result.

Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla, L6G



The U19 netball team represented Ripon Grammar School in the netball county tournament on 10 November.

We were the only state school there and lost two games but won four games.

Three of our stalwart players were away so we brought in two U/14 players who really stood up and were counted. Well done Eve Maylor (aka supershooter) and Amelia Reed (another super shooter and defender!)

In defence Katie Reed and Isabella Binks were phenomenal and it is SO good to see Isabella playing again after such a long time out with her injury. She's a complete natural on court and a joy to watch. In the centre Jess Merrin was awesome, her natural ability as a defender shining through as she took interception after interception, turning the ball round even on the edge of the circle and firing it up court to Molly Reed as WA (also played WD). Both Jess and Molly are ridiculously fit and can run rings round their defenders. Superb stuff. Hattie Eve - a newcomer to this team - played out of her skin, again fitness telling as she drove hard for the ball into the centre third and again on the circle edge. Captain Amy Mackenzie played brilliantly in the shooting circle, firing shots in from all over the circle - but when needed she also was a force to be reckoned with in defence.

Sadly we came third, with two to qualify for the next round. But we were the top placed state school in the competition and I am so proud of the girls' resilience, grit and never-say-die attitude. Well played girls.

Mrs Mackenzie



Swimming

Four outstanding Ripon Grammar School swimmers have emerged as the fastest school relay team in the North after competing in prestigious national championships.

Imogen Vollans, 14, Agatha Scott, Evie Palmer-Jones and Georgi Houseman, who are all 13, competed against the top 30 fastest school teams in the country at the London Aquatics Centre's Olympic pool in November.

The dedicated swimmers, who regularly get up between 4 and 5am to train, were placed 13th overall and narrowly missed out on the final by just 0.5secs.

To win their place in the English Secondary Schools Team Championships, the girls had already beaten off stiff competition from 16 other schools in their age group in the North-East regional heats in Huddersfield.

"It was a very challenging competition with lots of good teams there and I am so happy we qualified," said Imogen.

Agatha, who also plays hockey and represents her school in cross-country running, said she was thrilled to take part. Evie, who also plays hockey, added: "We all practise about six times a week and swim in the evenings after school as well as in the early mornings."

The team-mates, who all compete individually at regional level, have been swimming since they were infants. Agatha, Georgi and Imogen are all members of Harrogate District Swimming Club, while Evie swims for Richmond Dales Amateur Swimming Club.

"We all enjoy swimming, it's good for keeping fit and stamina, and we love representing our school too," said Georgi, who also plays cricket for North Yorkshire.

The students all hope to progress further in the sport: "I would like to get to the British Nationals for individual swimming and further, if possible," said Agatha.



English Schools swimming finals London 2018

We were very excited when we found out that we had qualified to go to London Aquatics Centre for the ESSA national finals.

We left on Friday 16 November and travelled down on the minibus - the journey took six hours and we were relieved to arrive at our accommodation.

On Saturday we set off at 8:15 to go to the aquatics centre for our familiarization session where we practised for our relay in the 50m pool. In between our warm up and our race, we had lunch and walked around the Olympic Park.

The competition started at 1pm so we arrived back to poolside by 12:30. Our race was the 5th event, we were in heat 2, lane 1. Our race was lead out by Georgi, who got us off to a good start, the second leg was swam by Evie, who held our good position. Third was Imogen, who caught up with our oppositions and finally was Agatha, who finished strongly leaving us in 4th place in our heat. Overall, we finished in 13th position, 0.5 seconds off the final so we were very happy with our result.

Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla, L6G



L to R Imogen, Georgi, Evie and Agatha in front of the Ripon Grammar School pool.



A SUMMER OF SPORT



I'm sure everyone is looking back at the summer of 2018 as a golden sun-soaked summer of great sport, a summer where 'football's coming home' rang through the streets as England went from strength to strength in Russia, as we watched and hoped at home.

But English Football success isn't the only sporting success of the summer. We've had our own at Ripon Grammar School.

One of our biggest success stories came from students Oliver Stocks and Joe Willis, who have excelled in the sport of VX, originally known as Rock-It-Ball.

Having won the world singles title at the V2 Youth World Championships in India in August, Oliver made VX history recently when he also clinched the V2 European crown following a tense final against England's Becca Fram in Spain.

RGS PE teacher Helen Mackenzie explained how Oliver rose to the challenge: "The European match proved to be every bit as tough as those of the World Championships, but Oliver called on all his experience to beat off Becca's attacks and managed to control the match to win by six points."

Joe, having just turned 18, was competing for the first time in the senior singles tournament, and ended up with an impressive and hard-won runner-up medal: "His performance was the talk of the tournament," added Mrs Mackenzie.

With Joe playing for England's senior 'A' team and Oliver in the senior 'B' team, the boys also came away with a winner's and a runner-up medal, respectively, to add to their impressive tally.

Back home in Ripon after making sporting history, double champion Oliver reflected on his success: "Taking part in the V2 competition in Chandigarh, India, during the summer holidays and the European VX and V2 championships in Bilbao, Spain, recently were incredible experiences," he said.

"Even though they are very new to the sport in India, they are very good. In the senior category there were representatives from India, England, UAE, Uganda and Hong Kong and I ended up winning the world title in my age group after playing several matches against the Indian opposition.

"Our England 'B' team came second overall in Bilbao and, after some tough games, I came out on top in the V2 singles competition the next day. I'm now both European and World champion, the first person in any age category to hold both titles."

Oliver began playing VX four years ago when he first started at Ripon Grammar School, which has been designated the National Centre of Excellence for the sport. He now attends the local VX club every Thursday in the sports hall.

The relatively new sport, launched in 2006, is played on a basketball-sized court with two teams of five players.

Oliver explained: "The aim of the game is to hit the opposing team with low-impact tennis ball thrown from a lacrosse-like stick with scoops on both ends, called a V-stick. Points are scored when the balls hit the opposing team, even if the opposing team steps on a ball. There are several variations but my preferred version is V2."

Mrs Mackenzie added: "A massive well done to both Oliver and Joe for superb performances, a result of Ripon Grammar School being VX's National Centre of Excellence."

Another Ripon Grammar success story lays with David Blyton, who gave us his account of his success in pétanque: "In July, I took part in the Northern England Shooting Pétanque Championships and won my first regional title.

"The following month, I played in an adult triples competition that involved the Northern region competing against Mercia and the Heart of England regions, and we won all our games as 'Team 1', helping our region win the tournament.

"Then, in September, I qualified to play in 'Team 1' for the Northern region in an adult inter-regional competition at Hayling Island, which is the largest competitive pétanque event in the country, with over 500 participants. We did well in the top division, managing to avoid relegation.

"I also took part in an under-18 shooting competition here, where I managed to just miss out on the final but secured the bronze medal. In October, I played in a youth doubles tournament and my partner and I won the title, which I consider to be one of my best achievements yet."

Congratulations to Oliver, Joe and David on their sporting success this summer and we wish them both luck in future competitions.

Tom Senior, L6E



Karate



MARTIAL arts champion Jake Hansen has returned triumphant from the European Shotokan Karate Championships in Bulgaria with one team gold and two individual bronze medals.

He was part of a five-strong England squad competing against 30 clubs across 15 countries, including the Russian Federation, Romania, Azerbaijan, Switzerland and Italy.

As well as the gold he won with his team-mates at the acclaimed event, held in the city of Albena, 12-year-old Jake was awarded two bronzes for his skilful use of choreographed kata combat techniques against an opponent.

The Ripon Grammar School second former, who started competing when he was only six years old, has travelled all over the world to competitions in Albania, Malta, Italy and Turkey as well as taking part in prestigious events throughout the UK.

He has trained with nine-times World and European champion Wayne Otto OBE, as well as with other martial arts champions, at Karate Fighters' Boot Camp and achieved his black belt, representing the highest level of skill, when he was just ten years old.

Jake, who attends Ripon's Karate Dojo club, run by karate sensei, or teacher, Ady Gray, said he plans to carry on competing and continuing to improve his karate skills: "I encourage anyone interested in martial arts to try competitions, once you've done a few of them, they are so much fun. My advice is to never give up."

***The Karate Dojo is at Queen Street, Ripon
T: 07972 227772 W: thekaratedojo.co.uk**



NEVER – GIVE – UP



Following on from his success at the V2 Youth World Cup in India in August, Oliver Stocks was selected for the England Senior B team to compete in the European VX championships where he was also to compete in the European Youth V2 Championships.

He was joined by Joe Willis who was selected for the 'A' team and, having just turned 18, was to compete for the first time in a senior V2 tournament.

The result of the VX tournament went as predicted with the England A team beating all their opponents to win, and the B team coming runners-up, having beaten everyone else but England A – so, a winners' medal for Joe and a runners-up medal for Oliver and a senior England representation for both.

Once the team event was over it was on to the V2 (singles event). Having won the World title, Oliver was keen to do the double and set about beating all-comers. He beat everyone comfortably until he met Becca Fram who had drawn one and needed to beat Oliver to pip him to the title. This proved to be a match every bit as tough as those of the World Cup and at half time Ollie was only 3 points ahead. Becca took heart from this and redoubled her efforts but Ollie called on all his experience to beat off her attacks and managed to control the match, gaining another three points to win by 6 and take the title with 100% record. With the Masters V2 World Champion having retired from competitive V2 after the World Cup, and with the senior World Champion losing in the semi-finals, Oliver made



VX history by becoming the first player in any category to do the World and European double.

Joe meanwhile was successfully navigating the group stages of the senior tournament. He then got through the quarter final to meet Lt Dan Raper of the Royal Navy in the semi-finals. Dan is also a Ripon Club Coach and was runner-up in the World Cup in India. The match proved to be fast and furious and at half-time Dan had a slender lead of 4 points 32:28. Encouraged by this Joe took the fight to Dan in the second half, rocking him back on his heels and turning it round to squeeze into the final 61:59 where he met Carl Alsop. Having seen Joe's performance in the semi-finals Carl was not going to make the mistake of under-estimating Joe and brought all his experience and firepower to bear, taking the match 88:60 and leaving Joe with a European V2 runners-up medal in his first senior tournament. Joe's performance impressed everyone and was the talk of the tournament.

A massive 'well done' to both Oliver and Joe for superb performances – a result of Ripon Grammar School being VX's National Centre of Excellence!
Mrs Mackenzie

WORLD CHALLENGE



This summer I went on the World Challenge trip to Ecuador, South America, where I spent three weeks living and travelling with thirteen of my peers. In order to get there we each had to raise around £5000, which I did by selling Christmas trees, babysitting and having a weekend job.

What made our trip so personal was that, after having signed up to this adventure two years ago, we were all given the opportunity, as individual groups, to plan our itineraries from a whole range of possibilities.

(not that some of us would admit it!). We each donated \$10 from our personal spending money to the family and more from our 'Slush Fund' which would be used to buy bricks and slate to complete the structure. The locals played some traditional music for us and in return we danced for them - the traditional Scottish Morris dance we had spent weeks practising at lunchtime - and it was worth it. That night was by far the most moving and memorable night of our trip.

This may sound slightly over exaggerated, but when you're flying half way around the world, it's not: in the weeks leading up to our departure everyone was terrified. No one could figure out how in the world we were going to survive with limited showers and even more limited toilets - we were expecting overly exotic food, unbearable heat, awful altitude sickness and huge insects everywhere. I can assure you, this was completely distorted. When we arrived, it was only as hot as a hot day at home and there were no huge insects in sight. As we settled into the culture, we began to realise that their cuisine was very similar to ours with the addition of a few interesting vegetables and... guinea pig (although it was only presented to us once). The only times we did not have a toilet were the four days we spent trekking through the Northern Andes, during which we had to resort to 'DIY' - but that was the point of it. The remaining seventeen days we were either staying in hostels in the city, in cabanas in the Amazon Rainforest, or camping in a local village in which we had full access to a toilet and a shower.

All in all, the experiences I've taken from this opportunity are not ones we will find in our lives here, and for some were possibly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It was completely eye-opening - the people we met, the language we learned, the culture we adapted to and even took home with us, the things to tick off our bucket list, and the relationships we developed with our peers. You may not be best of friends and you may not hang out every day at school or on weekends, but you will always have a bond - the kind of love you feel when you've seen it all together and lived in all the countless moments because, dare I say it, we didn't have Wi-Fi!

For me, the most valuable days of our trip were the ones we spent in San Clemente, a tiny village located in the Northern Andes. We spent five days camping in the garden of a local family, helping them lay down the foundations for the construction of a new guest room in their house and learning about their culture. The woman of the family, Matilde, informed us that it was to rent out to travellers so that they could afford to send their eldest daughter to university - something which very few have the privilege of doing in their community. This was one of the main aspects of our trip that really touched me as it encouraged me to see the bigger picture. The past two years I had thought that we were raising money for us to go out and see the wider world. However, every penny we raised brought a gift to this family. Without those pennies that took us to them, it would have taken years to have enough money to buy the supplies they needed. Consequently, on our last night with them, everyone was emotional

So that was my experience and I'm just one person from one group. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing school leaders and World Challenge leaders as it wouldn't have happened without them. I had the time of my life, and as much as I doubted it during the long run-up, the experience was unbelievably worth it and I wouldn't have had it any other way.

Maisie Heap, L6F



LIBRARY NEWS



Reading Delivered To Your Door



In September there is so much going on as a new term commences, so we decided to make it easier to stock up on your reading material by offering a personalised delivery service!

Borrowing heavily from Deliveroo's modus operandi, we launched Deliveread. Students or staff could fill in an order form detailing their likes, dislikes and requirements, allowing the library staff to choose a book for them and then deliver it to their form room in a recyclable brown paper bag.

Deliveread proved very popular and gave us the opportunity to get to know our new readers and their preferences, as well as introducing students to a book they might not otherwise have chosen.

European Cake Off 2018

European Day of Languages falls in the same week as the Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning and so we decided to combine the two events and hold a European Bake Off!

Students were invited to bake a cake or biscuits, either to represent a European country, or using a traditional recipe from a European country.

The results were extremely impressive, ranging from a confectionery version of pasta and meatballs, to individual flag tray bakes and even a Brexit cake! Winners in several categories received the coveted Star Baker spoons, but the overall winner was judged to be Isabella's amazing cake celebrating Germany's Oktoberfest.

After judging, the cakes were sliced up and sold at break time to raise money for Macmillan Cancer and the grand total of £150 was collected.

Thank you to everyone for all your baking efforts!

Mrs Dring

Life as a Library Assistant

My name is Veronica and I am the new Library Assistant here at Ripon Grammar. I am originally from Warsaw, Poland, where I attended University and gained my degree in Information Science and Book Studies, before working in a number of libraries. I moved to the UK in 2013 to join my partner. For the last 2 years I worked at the Army Foundation College's Library. In my spare time, besides books, I am interested in watercolour painting, furniture restoration and exploring Yorkshire on foot and by bike.

Everyone at RGS is very welcoming and I have really enjoyed my first weeks and getting familiar with the job and place. I am very impressed with the facilities and the fantastic standard of teaching and the resources available to students. I am looking forward to getting to know the students and my colleagues better and being able to offer my help in the Library and Sixth Form Learning Centre.



Well-Being Wednesdays in the Library

The first Wednesday in every month will be Well-Being Wednesday at lunch time in the library.

We will have on offer a selection of colouring, dot-to-dot or crossword sheets, as well as some kind of craft activity, all of which will hopefully give us a chance to be calm and switch off our busy minds.

To start this half term we made some pine-cone owls!





Remembrance Service

The whole school, as well as Old Riponians and guests, gathered in the school grounds on Friday, 9 November to remember the victims of World War One on the hundred-year anniversary of its armistice. In the ceremony poppies were laid on the ground next to the memorial to remember those who had fallen. Students describe their experience of the occasion:

'I liked that the school especially remembered the Old Riponians who fought and died, with wreaths being laid by the family whose ancestors had fallen during the conflict. The conclusion of the service was poignant with students planting their poppies around the memorial; a truly touching sentiment.'

Harry Edwards, U6F

'It was moving to see everyone coming together as a body of people to support those who fought so that their nation could have a future.'

Hetty Simenacz, 3E



'I will remember Friday's experience for a very long time. As we stood together as a school, I reflected upon the symbolism of the poppies; and even though I wasn't personally affected I definitely feel more connected and thankful to those that gave their lives for our future. The cold weather made us aware of our surroundings as we experienced unity and pride.'

Imogen McMurray, 4E

'I found the ceremony really peaceful, especially when we held the two-minute silence. It was a fitting, respectful, beautiful tribute to those who had fallen and those who still fight. I enjoyed being part of the remembrance.'

Martha Robinson, 2C

'I believe it was really important for the school to gather together to remember those that died for the freedom we have today. In particular we commemorated the fifty fallen from Ripon Grammar School, some of whom were only fourteen when they served. For me it was an opportunity to appreciate their sacrifice and remember they didn't die in vain.'

Sola Sowole, U6E

'The remembrance service, for me, was an emotional event and imprinted upon me the importance of remembering history and its relevance to our lives. Planting a poppy helped me personally connect to the event and created a monument the whole school could directly relate to.'

Samarth Dasarathi and Joel Hutchinson, 2B



Poppy Robinson, U6B

Second Form Trip to Normandy

On 20 July a group of Second Form RGS students excitedly embarked on a six-day French excursion to Normandy with the aim of furthering their language skills and experiencing the rich history and culture of France.

The trip included visits to many tourist attractions and landmarks, such as the Bayeux British War Cemetery, the American Cemetery and Memorial and the La Cambe German War Cemetery, where the students advanced their historical knowledge and payed respect to those who lost their lives. Another main feature of the trip was a visit to see the 68m long Bayeux Tapestry, which depicts the events leading up to the Norman conquest of England, ideal for furthering knowledge for history lessons. During this trip the students were also given time to explore the town of Bayeux and listen to the history of the tapestry itself. A favourite with students seemed to be Omaha beach which was used as a landing area for allied soldiers in the WWII D-Day invasion.

To add to the excitement, the trip also included many cultural excursions where the students were given time to experience local cuisine, for example a visit to a cider farm and to a cheese and caramel factory. The group was taught how to produce the delicacies

and then were given the chance to sample the produce. Furthermore, the students found the trip greatly rewarding and beneficial for their speaking of the French language. Many commented that they particularly enjoyed speaking and interacting with locals and observing pronunciation of words they didn't understand in the classroom.

Aside from the educational aspect of the trip, the students stayed in the 18th century Château du Molay, a short journey from Bayeux, where they had access to an outdoor pool, games rooms and 38 acres of private parkland. Free time was also allocated to socialise with friends and get to know people some students wouldn't normally get the chance to talk to.

It is clear that the trip was a huge success which allowed students to develop their knowledge of French as well as enjoy the culture of the country whilst spending time with friends.

Emily Koscik, L6F

