

SOME THOUGHT REQUIRED...

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Welcome to the first issue of the new RGS 6th form newsletter. The editorial team intend to keep you up to date with current affairs, funny narratives and essential information- not forgetting social highlights! We want this newsletter to be useful and meaningful and would welcome any articles or suggestions.

Henry Exley – Editor

THE GRIPE ABOUT GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

When it comes to the government's approach towards education, Grammar Schools are currently a major area of debate. The modern Grammar School was introduced in 1944 for more academic students, who were encouraged to go on to higher education. They have support from many, as they are meant to increase social mobility by allowing more academic students to get a suitable education - no matter their family income.

However, in 1965 Labour began to phase out Grammar Schools, as they seemed to be upholding and perpetuating middle-class privilege. Even now students in Grammar Schools are much less likely to receive free school meals. Labour also made it possible for parents to vote on the continued existence of the Grammar Schools in their area but only one took place, here in Ripon, with parents voting 67% for keeping the Grammar School.

Labour still opposes the creation of more Grammar Schools and, until recently, the Conservatives held a similar view. However in the 2017 Conservative Manifesto they described their plan to lift the ban on the creation of new selective schools, sparking an intense debate with the sides divided on how Grammar Schools affect social mobility. Despite this, following this controversy and the general election where Theresa May lost her majority, the plan was scrapped.

Poppy Jagger



**Christmas
Cracker 21st
December
2017
The Cairn
Hotel
Courtesy of
JSP
Photography**



THE SECRET LIFE OF MISS GREEN

Please could you tell me a fun fact about yourself?

A: When I was 9 I spent 2 weeks travelling through the Australian outback. I climbed Ayres Rock (before it was considered a religious site of interest) and it turns out that most of the time Alice Springs has no water in it. It was here I learnt some important World Challenge skills, as when I asked where the toilet was, I was given a shovel and told to go find a private spot. It's hard to find a private spot when the land is so barren that there are no trees!

What is a pet hate of yours?

A: Chewing gum!!

I hate the way it seems to turn up everywhere, like cigarette butts, and I think it looks very unprofessional when people chew in public. I don't want to see the contents of your mouth unless I told you such a funny joke you're laughing out loud!



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

A: Physicists are odd...it's all relative...see what I did there?

Please tell me your best/worst joke?

A: 2 fish in a tank, 1 turns round to the other and asks, "how do you drive this thing?"

One of life's big questions to finish off: If you were reincarnated as a gecko, how would you feel about it, and why?

A: I think that would be pretty cool. Geckos tend to live in warm climates which would suit me just fine. Some of them can change the colour of their skin which would take me back to my university days when I would change my hair to some very bright colours. I also like the idea of being able to see in other parts of the electro-magnetic spectrum other than visible light. Did you know that some species don't even need a male to reproduce?

Ben Pimley

FOCUS ON.....BIOLOGY SOCIETY "HOW DO BIRDS VIEW THE WORLD?"

Some of the primary ways birds sense the world are through sight and hearing, and so in my presentation I gave brief outlines of how the specific organs work, and their adaptations in birds, as well as giving examples of certain bird species, such as the Kiwi. As well as these more well-known senses, I explored some which are much more specific for birds, such as magnetic sense. Here I explained how this sense was first discovered in the 1950s in European Robins, and how since then research has been on-going to discover exactly how it works, with the favoured theories following a 'map and compass' model. I also explained how although birds may have a poorer sense of taste than us, that doesn't stop some species, such as the, from employing the tactic of producing distasteful and poisonous substances through their diet, to deter predators. My presentation concluded with the question of whether birds have emotions, and although this is an area still under investigation, my conclusion from the current research pointed to them being able to feel and experience pain, grief and love. The Biology Society's presentations are very varied, and every week there is something different being discussed; from medicine to zoology. I would encourage everyone to come along.

Alicia Hayden

Overheard in a department.....Physics Department

"Come on electrons, you're looking really good today" Mr Griggs