



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



Autumn Newsletter September 2015

Dear Parents,

The term has commenced well and there is much news to share with you after a very busy start. I was very grateful to the large number of staff who came in on both results days to make them run smoothly and to share in the success of the students. The students really appreciated staff advice on such an important day and both days were wonderful occasions. It was an especially positive year this year perhaps due to the success in gaining the all-important university places for next year.

We await the two forthcoming weekends as RGS hosts entrance test weekends on September 12th and 19th which will be very busy occasions; all potential Year 7 students will sit the entrance tests here rather than in their primary schools and Dallamires Lane Leisure Centre.

There was some rather late good news from the **Good Schools Guide Awards** all at GCSE level. RGS was the highest performing grammar school for boys in art, boys in astronomy and girls in French - this was for 2014!

I am very much looking forward to **Speech Day** on November 6th when the guest speaker will be Paul Hills, former student and son of Mrs Hills former mathematics teacher, who works on the technical side of film production. We will welcome Nick Chester, Lotus F1 technical director and Old Riponian, in the summer for Lower School Prizegiving. I am sure that both speakers will have something of significance to say to the students.

Staffing

I would like to welcome new staff to RGS and to wish them well in their careers at RGS:

- Mrs Gallagher (biology)
- Mrs Garmory (art)
- Miss Ireland (English)
- Mr Highton (chemistry)
- Mrs Caldwell returning from maternity to teach chemistry
- The GAP students helping in boarding and modern foreign languages will be Mikaela German from Ecuador and Alexandra Schaefer from Germany.

Heads of Houses have been appointed towards the end of last term: Miss Bennett, Hutton. Mrs Gallagher, De Grey. Mr Milner, Porteus and Mrs Morpeth, School House; we wish them well in their new roles.

We have also been advertising for a new **library assistant** following Miss Nelson's decision to return to her native Northern Ireland.

The third form intake will again be organised later this term and the entrance test will be advertised then with the test being taken in February 2016 as last year. 13 new students will hopefully be admitted to year 9 for September 2016 following the testing process.

Headmaster: Martin Pearman, MA(Oxon), CChem, FRSC

Address: Clothierholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG Telephone: (01765) 602647 Facsimile: (01765) 606388

Email: admin@ripongrammar.co.uk Website: www.ripongrammar.co.uk





Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



Facilities

The **Johnson House extension** is now completed, occupied and looks fabulous. There has been very good demand for boarding places particularly in the sixth form. There has also been a lot of decoration in S1, cellars, sani, maths rooms, Johnson House dorms on ground floor and the IT office, amongst others. There has also been re-carpeting of some rooms e.g. S1, C2. The new hall curtains, funded by the PA, have lifted the environment of the hall significantly and I am grateful to them for all their excellent work. The boys' washroom in School House has been completed to a very high standard and will improve the facilities for boy boarders.

The disabled access in the admin corridor was completed in last 2 weeks of the holiday; there is only one external door into the medical centre but a new internal door. There are also electronic door holds in the admin corridor and boys' cloakroom corridor and the doors close when the fire alarm rings. This will improve accessibility significantly in this part of the school.

There is now wireless access in the North Corridor, a new core switch to ensure that network remains active, a whole new network and all the school's PCs have been rebuilt. New cabling to Room 16 for network access has been installed and there is a new fingerprint entry system at Johnson House to improve security.

My very sincere thanks to Mr Dunmore, Mr Hanson and Mr Hudson for all their work over the summer holidays as well as to Mr Hampshire and the IT team. The exams office (Miss Lancaster and Mrs Dale) have also worked exceptionally hard over the summer coping with a number of remark requests.

Exam results

At **A level**, there was almost 100% pass rate (just one U grade), with 71% A*/B grades (exc. General Studies) which was slightly lower than last year (76%). Compared to local schools, the students of RGS have performed very well including those at other grammar schools in Yorkshire. RGS was 99th in the Telegraph league tables of all state schools and is the second highest performing school in North Yorkshire, which is a tremendous achievement.

All the students who applied for medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine were successful in gaining places at university. Overall, a very high proportion got their first choice even when missing the odd grade. There were many very happy students who gained places at their first choice university, and it was wonderful to share in their success following all their hard work.

Rebecca Baldwin, Max Crompton, Ellie Fielding, Mary Kumarendran, Melody Swiers secured at least 3 A* grades including EPQ and there were many more with 2 or more A* grades and there were 37 students with 3 grade A's or better. With regard to the **EPQ**, 17 students out of 21 got A*/A.

In this year's 132 **UCAS** application cohort as a whole, 114 students will go to university this year or next year with a deferral, of which 66 are attending Russell Group universities; additionally, 1 student will attend university in America and 1 student will begin a college course.

Headmaster: Martin Pearman, MA(Oxon), CChem, FRSC

Address: Clothierholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG Telephone: (01765) 602647 Facsimile: (01765) 606388

Email: admin@ripongrammar.co.uk Website: www.ripongrammar.co.uk





Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



4 students are currently intent on going directly into employment/training, 1 is seeking to join the armed forces, whilst the remaining 18 are taking the year as a gap year to resit examinations, gain extra experience, consider their options and apply again next year.

The sixth form office and the careers department will continue to keep in contact with these students to provide support and sustain contact in the year ahead.

In terms of university choices, the majority of our students once again selected northern universities with Newcastle, Northumbria, Sheffield and Durham as the favourites. 8 students have opted for London Universities, and 12 for Scottish universities, with Edinburgh the overwhelming favourite this year. UEA has also attracted a number of our students – with unconditional offers playing a big part in this attraction.

At **AS level**, 58.7% of the grades were A/B which is similar to last year. This year group have great potential and I am sure they will work hard to fulfill their undoubted potential at A2. There were straight A grades in 4(or more) subjects for 21 (20 last year) students plus many with 3 A grades: Leanne Anderson, Julia Atherley, Jack Baker, David Bates, Emma Beaumont, Tom Beaumont, Donna Castle Ward, James Donaldson, Vicky Frost, Matt Griffiths, Flo Hall, Elle Lamb, Alannah Mansfield, David Owens, Ben Pease, Emily Peirson, Matt Pimley, Hannah Scholes, Max Vesty, Tom Willis, Ryan Wood.

At **GCSE**, there were some very pleasing results, with 61.9% of the grades being at A*/A. This is a tremendous outcome for this year group and reflects the hard work of both students and staff. English Language and Literature marking is causing concern and many remarks have been requested. 95.5% of the students achieved 5 A*-C grades including maths and English. There were 3 students with 10 A* or better; Emily Evans, Katie Veitch, Emma Wilkinson but this number could change with remarks.

There were 39 students with 10 A*/A or better: Lorna Aspinall, John Ashton, Olivia Brooksbank-Laing, Alec Cavell-Taylor, Mary Cox, Katherine Cussons, Tamsin Cutmore, Saffy Dean-Stone, Susie Dinning, Emily Evans, Gabriella Feingold, Gemma Felton, Katie Fraser, Andrew Garner, Francesca Haldane, Tom Hooper, Molly Ireland, Zoe Langham, Alicia Micklefield, Patrick Moon, Jack Newby, Lydia Poole, Sophie Ryan, Roscoe Savage, Christina Scullion, Alice Shanahan, Oliver Simenacs, Sophie Spick, Poppy Stanton, Will Stobbs, Georgia Stuart-Mills, Joy Sutcliffe, Dana Turner, Katie Veitch, Emily Watson, Ben Wayne, Lucy Wicks, Emma Wilkinson, Meghan Williamson.

When RGS is ranked on A/A* percentage, we are ahead of our local competitors and other grammar schools in the county except Ermysted's where our results for A*/A are virtually identical. A very pleasing outcome for this year group.

I received a very nice e mail from a parent of a student in the fifth form:

"Well done to you and all your staff on another set of impressive results, both at A and GCSE levels. Obviously having a child involved this year gives me a particular insight to all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes, along with the joy and happiness so many of the students experience when all that effort - both from students and staff - pays off.

Headmaster: Martin Pearman, MA(Oxon), CChem, FRSC

Address: Clothierholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG Telephone: (01765) 602647 Facsimile: (01765) 606388

Email: admin@ripongrammar.co.uk Website: www.ripongrammar.co.uk





Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



I was particularly moved by the story about Monty Merchie (which I see has appeared in the Daily Mirror and ITV news online, as well as in the Yorkshire Post, Northern Echo, Evening Post etc). He displays great strength of character and determination - quite an inspiration.

The story also reveals, of course, just how supportive RGS staff have been in enabling this student to achieve such commendable results in difficult circumstances, illustrating, yet again, that RGS is about so much more than simply churning out A*s and As!

I know this has been a particularly challenging year and that staff have worked extremely hard to provide all the additional support and encouragement necessary to enable all students at RGS to achieve the very best they can. Again, well done to all involved."

I wrote to about 100 students across both the fifth and sixth form who have done very well in their public examinations but I fully recognise that there are many students who have worked very hard and made tremendous progress to achieve their grades which may not necessarily be A* or A.

I continue to be very concerned about the **quality of marking**. As a school, we must be vigilant hence we are pursuing a number of remarks especially in GCSE English and A level history which has now triggered a full centre remark of one paper in both of these subjects. The results of these full centre remarks will take several weeks. There have been 14 grade changes already at A2/AS following remarks with 7 in AS history alone. With remarks at GCSE, there have been 10 increases in grades with 8 of those in English literature. There are still more to come back from the examination boards as I write. **The deadline for remarks is September 20th.**

Kirkland Rowell questionnaire results for students is available and I will report back to both students and parents on the outcomes as soon as possible. A survey for parents will take place this coming summer.

The **Governors' Annual Report** will be on the website highlighting, from a governors' perspective, the achievements of the previous academic year. I hope you will find time to read it. Also on the website is a copy of this year's **homework timetable** which I am sure parents will find useful for the coming academic year. As ever, every letter home will also be placed on the website for your information, as well as being emailed home.

All students have received a re-vamped **School Planner** which needs to be signed by parents on a weekly basis. It will be used as a means of communication between school, teachers and home; both positive and negative comments will be recorded by your child's teachers. I hope you will find it helpful.

I would like to wish all parents and students a very happy and successful academic year.

M L Pearman
Headmaster

Headmaster: Martin Pearman, MA(Oxon), CChem, FRSC

Address: Clothierholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG Telephone: (01765) 602647 Facsimile: (01765) 606388

Email: admin@ripongrammar.co.uk Website: www.ripongrammar.co.uk





Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



KEY DATES FOR THE COMING TERM

Saturday 12 September 2015	Entrance tests for first form intake Sept 2016
Wednesday 16 September 2015	Upper School welcome evening 5.30pm
Friday 18 September 2015	First form tea for new parents 4.15pm
Saturday 19 September 2015	Entrance tests for first form intake Sept 2016
Sunday 20 September 2015	Boarding trip to Camp Hill
Tuesday 22 September 2015	School photograph day
Wed 23 Sept – Fri 25 Sept 2015	CATS tests
Friday 25 September 2015	Lower Sixth form tea at 4.15pm and RGS PA Cheese, Wine and Quiz evening for new parents 7pm (tbc)
Friday, 2 October 2015	First form team building exercise at 4.30pm
Monday, 5 October 2015	Fifth form Geography trip to Malham
Thurs, 8 Oct – Sun, 11 Oct 2015	Lower Sixth Art trip to Cornwall
Wednesday 14 October 2015	RGS PA Swinton Park Cookery Demonstration – time tbc
Thursday 15 October 2015	Autumn concert – 6pm in School Hall
w/c 19 October 2015	Charity Week in aid of Yorkshire Air Ambulance
Tuesday 20 October 2015	Form tutor boarding tea at 4pm
Wednesday 21 October 2015	Parents' Association AGM – all welcome 6.30pm
Friday 23 October 2015	School closes for half term at 3.55pm
w/c Monday, 26 October 2015	Half term holiday

Headmaster: Martin Pearman, MA(Oxon), CChem, FRSC

Address: Clothierholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG **Telephone:** (01765) 602647 **Facsimile:** (01765) 606388

Email: admin@ripongrammar.co.uk **Website:** www.ripongrammar.co.uk

