



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



9 September 2016

Autumn Newsletter September 2016

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the beginning of a new academic year. I hope you had a restful holiday and that you managed to find time to relax. The examination results brought much good news and I am grateful to staff who came in on results days to make it run smoothly and to provide support and congratulations on both days. The students really appreciated staff advice on such an important day and both days in August were wonderful occasions. There will be much more about examination results later in my letter.

In the meantime I would like to welcome **new staff** and update you on some changes to staffing within school:

- Mr Harding will teach PE/Games
- Mr MacMillan will teach RE
- Mr Astley will teach German
- Mrs Lyons has returned from maternity leave to teach in the languages department
- Mrs McIntyre is the new School health worker
- Mrs Sanderson is the new Deputy Senior Houseparent in Johnson House
- Mrs Garmory is the new head of PSHCEe taking over from Mrs Southwell
- The new GAP students will be Kerryn Joos (Germany) and Alejandra Ortiz (Ecuador).

Heads of Houses: Mr Harding will shadow Mrs Morpeth as Head of School House and Miss Clark will be the new Head of Hutton House replacing Miss Bennett who takes over the role as Deputy Head of Sixth Form.

We have **recruited** well both into the first and sixth form and there will be ten new students joining us in the Third Form. This provides financial security and the school will be just over 900 for the first time. I am pleased that more students can benefit from an education at Ripon Grammar School. The **Third Form intake for 2017** will again be organised later this term and the entrance test will be advertised shortly. The test will be sat in February 2017. 13 places for new students are available, of which four are reserved for boarding students. The Entrance exams for the new First Form (2017 entry) take place on September 10 and 17.

All the girls in the school will now be wearing the new school skirt which will help to improve the overall quality of **school uniform** which, I believe, is already very high at Ripon Grammar School. New ties for boarders are proving popular too, designed by the boarding students themselves.

There has been lots of **decoration** over the summer including the Clocktower entrance, H1, swimming pool, H and L building, pavilion as well as lots of maintenance e.g. paving around school, new

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benching in the swimming pool and lighting upgrades. The disabled access in North corridor has been completed and is now being used which has improved site access significantly. Planning for the 3G pitch is advancing and there are a few minor adjustments needed to the plans which will need resolving. The new Premises Manager, Mr Hogg, has been very busy along with caretaking team. I am also grateful to Miss Lancaster and Mrs Dale for all their work on exams over the summer.

The **Speech Day** guest on November 25th will be Bridget Kendall MBE, former diplomatic correspondent for the BBC and now Master of Peterhouse College, Cambridge. This is always a terrific occasion and we are looking forward to the opportunity to welcome back many of our former students who left us this summer and who are now engaged in university courses or employment around the UK, as well as to celebrate the success of our current Sixth Form students including the very many who have joined our Sixth Form from other schools this year. Parents from last year's Upper Sixth and the current Lower Sixth (including those who joined from other schools) are most welcome to join us for this event. Formal invites will be sent out in the next month but make a note in your diary of the date. Nick Chester, Renault F1 technical director, and Old Rip, will be the guest at **Lower School Prizegiving** in the summer hopefully! You may recall he was unable to make it last year but hopefully this year will be fine.

Exam results

The deadline is September 20th for appeals. Please contact Miss Lancaster in the exams office if you need to submit for a review of marking.

A level: There was a 100% pass rate with 76.2 % A*/B grades (exc. General Studies) which is much higher than last year. This placed RGS above other local grammar schools and resulted in being 66th in Telegraph league tables of all state schools. Ripon Grammar School was the top school in North Yorkshire and Yorkshire as well! When local independent school results were compared, Ripon Grammar School performed extremely well in comparison too.

There were many superb individual performances with 10 students getting three A* grades or better including James Donaldson, Head Boy, who secured 4 A* grades and is going to Cambridge to read natural sciences. On results day, there were many happy students and it was great to see them so pleased. I was also delighted with a large number of students who found A level challenging but performed very well and achieved grades which exceeded expectation.

In this year's 138 UCAS application cohort as a whole, 118 students will go to university this year or next year with a deferral, of which 74 are attending Russell Group universities (63 from the 2016 cohort,) and of that total, 1 student will attend university in America and 1 student will attend university in Madrid. Our Oxbridge figures this year were 6 (2 for Oxford and 4 for Cambridge).

Of the remaining students, 2 individuals have taken up apprenticeship offers with the John Lewis

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partnership and 1 is going through interviews at the moment for a similar apprenticeship route. 2 individuals are pursuing other routes into employment - having decided that, on reflection, they do not wish to undertake further education at this time.

In terms of university choices, the majority of our students again selected northern universities with Newcastle, Northumbria, Sheffield and Durham as the favourites. Unusually, we have 14 students with places at Durham this year or next – more than any other single university. There is a sprinkling of applicants at universities across the rest of Britain, with Nottingham and Bristol taking four students each.

At A2, Alfie Ashton, Jack Baker, James Donaldson, Vicky Frost, Matt Griffiths, Flo Hall, Elle Lamb, Ed Lyons, Max Vesty, Ryan Wood secured at least 3 A* grades. If we include EPQ, Jess Rutherford and Tom Beaumont are also included.

The following students achieved at least 3 A grades (and in many cases much better) as well; Ellie Abbott, Leanne Anderson, James Andrews, Alfie Ashton, Julia Atherley, Helen Bailey, Catherine Bailey, David Bates, Emma Beaumont, Annabelle Blyton, Donna Castle-Ward, Anna Durkin, Eliza Dwyer, Yaz Ebert-Moran, Christie Hall, Coulton Hill, Emma Hope, Will Knowles, Dan Lawson, Alannah Mansfield, Charlotte Miles, Emily Morrell, David Owens, Erin-Claire Pallott, Ben Pease, Emily Peirson, Ben Pilling, Matt Pimley, Tim Pope, Calum Richardson, Hannah Scholes, Isabelle Sykes and Kieran Woodcock.

There are 44 students with 3 grades A's or better, many more than last year in fact (37).

AS level

62.3% of the grades were A/B grades, about 5% higher than last year, which represent the best results in the last 4 years. This augurs well for next year and is tremendous given the many syllabus changes for AS in many subjects.

There were straight A grades in 4 (or more) subjects for 23 (21 last year) students: plus many with 3 A grades. Lorna Aspinall, Will Barker, Laura Bosomworth, Alec Cavell-Taylor, Tamsin Cutmore, Emily Evans, Andrew Garner, Fran Haldane, Tom Hooper, Antony Hunzinger, Charlotte Knowles, Tom Lewis, Elke Morgan, Mate Pocs, Lydia Poole, Lola Rhodes, Christina Scullion, Alice Shanahan, Will Stobbs, Ross Sullivan, Jonathan Tanner, Katie Veitch and Emma Wilkinson.

GCSE

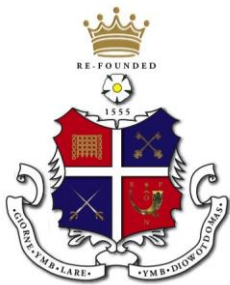
60% of the grades were A*/A with 97.5% of the students getting 5 A*-C grades including mathematics and English. 97.1% of the grades were C or better. A number of remarks are ongoing and these may

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change the overall figures slightly. The final outcome will not be known until all the remarks have been done.

32 out of 119 students (almost a third) achieved 10 A*/A grades (or better) with 9 students securing 10 A* (or better) in their GCSEs: Maddie Charvill, Louisa Chatterton, Ella Durkin, Lorcan Gallagher, Molly Morrell, Rebecca Payling, Ben Pimley, Georgie Taylor and Freya Whiteside. Maddie and Ben got straight A* grades in all of their GCSE subjects.

32 students achieved 10 A*/A or better: Lucie Algret, Alys Arnold, Maddie Charvill, Kate Charlton, Louisa Chatterton, Annissa Cook, Tim Coppack, Cobey Cutmore, Katherine Dale, Ella Durkin, Mhairi Ellis, Helen Elsworth, Dan Evans, Lorcan Gallagher, Poppie Hercock-Walker, Ella Jones, Isobel Lawson, Alicia McCormick Roddis, Lily Millington, Molly Morrell, Rebecca Payling, Will Penny, Ben Pimley, Alice Robinson, Jake Robinson, Phoebe Senior, Jacob Sharp, Ellie Simmerson, Rebecca Smith, Georgie Taylor, Freya Whiteside, James Willis.

There was some excellent national publicity in the Times and Yorkshire Post focusing on three sets of twins with 58 top grades (A*/A) between them. The photos featured Louisa and Katharine Chatterton and Harry and George Stratford. Molly and Lorcan Gallagher were unfortunately not available for the photograph but their achievement is excellent nevertheless.

Some **remarks and remoderations** (in AS art and GCSE astronomy) have already been submitted and some remarks (or reviews of marking as the examination boards prefer to call them) have already resulted in an increase in grade. There have been grade changes in GCSE English Language, Literature and French. However, there are fewer changes than last year at this stage but the full picture will only be apparent when all the remarks are completed.

The results of the parental **questionnaire** will be available soon. My thanks to those parents who took time to complete the questionnaire since it will provide useful feedback to help the school improve further. An updated version of the **school improvement plan** is available on the website (under policies).

The second year **Normandy** trip went very well and both staff and students enjoyed it immensely! The **World Challenge trip to Malaysia and Borneo** was very successful and there is no doubt that it was a life changing experience for many of the students. Ali Ions from World Challenge said the students were a pleasure to take on the trip and they acquitted themselves extremely well. The group leaders really enjoyed their company. The next trip is to Ecuador in 2018 and it is being launched on September 22 with the information evening for parents on September 29 at 6 pm in the hall.

The incredible news regarding **Jack Laugher**, a former student of RGS, winning a gold medal at the Rio Olympics with Chris Mears in the 3 metre springboard synchronised diving was very exciting news over the summer. Jack also went onto win silver in the individual 3m springboard after only just

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qualifying bringing him 2 Olympic medals. Jack joined RGS in 2006 and was in form 1B. A very modest student, his ability as an athlete was apparent from an early age. Jack is also a double Commonwealth champion and a gold medal World Series winner in International diving. This was the first ever diving gold medal won by Team GB and the first time the Chinese have ever been beaten in this sport at the Olympics. A wonderful achievement and one of which we can all feel proud. Jack was always very modest about his success and let his actions do the talking; as a consequence was very popular with both staff and students. He is an inspiration to all students at school and I hope he can come back to school to talk to the students about his success very soon.

The forthcoming year looks set to be a very busy one once again and I would like to wish all parents and students a very happy and successful academic year.

Yours sincerely

M L Pearman
Headmaster

Key Dates for the coming term

Saturday, 10 September	Entrance tests for first form intake Sept 2017
Saturday, 17 September	Entrance tests for first form intake Sept 2017
Tuesday, 20 September	School Photograph Day
Wed – Fri, 21-23 Sep	CATS tests
Wednesday, 21 September	Upper School Welcome Evening 5.30pm
Friday, 23 September	First form tea for new parents 4.15pm
Friday, 30 September	Lower Sixth form tea 4.15pm
Tuesday, 11 October	Form tutor boarding tea 4 – 5pm
Tuesday, 11 October	Autumn Concert 6pm
Thurs – Sun, 13-16 Oct	Art trip to Cornwall
Saturday, 15 October	Parents' Association Comedy Night
w/c 17 October	Charity Week
Friday, 21 October	School closes at 3.55pm for half term
Monday, 31 October	School opens at 8.45am

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