



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



From the Headmaster

To Parents and Guardians

16 February 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians

Re: End of half-term newsletter – Spring term 2017

We are approaching the end of a relatively long Spring half-term and a **training day** on the last Friday has meant that the students will finish a day earlier. Thank you very much for your understanding with this; the training day provides the opportunity for staff to see good practice in other schools which can only benefit students at Ripon Grammar School.

The term has been very busy, with **mock examinations** for the lower sixth and fifth form, and mocks to follow for the upper sixth immediately after half term. The upper sixth will be facing a very new examination regime with much longer exams and many subjects having no AS component to count towards their final mark. When the mocks have finished, the **School Officers** will be involved in appointing their replacements for next September through a series of interviews which they will help the leadership team to conduct. I hope that an announcement about next year's School Officers can be made at the beginning of next term.

There have been a number of important **staff appointments** made so far this term, including the appointment of Mrs Levahn as teacher of English from September, returning to the English department having covered for Mrs Mars when she was on maternity leave. Mrs Levahn is currently head of drama at Ampleforth College.

Mrs Addis has been appointed Senior Houseparent for School House, following Mr Fearnley's resignation from this post from Easter, and Mrs Sanderson has been appointed Senior Houseparent for Johnson House, following Mrs Smith's decision to retire.

Mr Hampshire has left his post as Systems Manager to take up a post at Ashville College and we are currently seeking a replacement for him.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new 'gap' student in March, who will be George Lynch from New Zealand. George will spend most of his time in our PE department and will be resident in School House. Unfortunately, our other two 'gap' students, Jane Joos and Alejandra Ortiz, have had to return home early.

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Our sports teams have been enjoying significant success this term. **The U16 girls' indoor hockey team** competed in the national finals against an array of independent schools and, although they did not win, they acquitted themselves remarkably well at a much higher level. Given that this is their first year of playing indoor hockey at school, this is an outstanding achievement. Unfortunately the team lost the play-off in the outdoor hockey to qualify for the national finals, losing a very closely contended match against Trent College. The girls should however be extremely proud of their achievements in hockey this year. Moreover, the U14 hockey team are Area and County champions.

The U16 **rugby** team have booked their place in the Yorkshire Cup final later this term, beating Prince Henry's, Otley in the semi-finals. The first XV and U14 rugby teams have both beaten Harrogate Grammar School in the semi-final of the Yorkshire Cup so, for the second year in a row, Ripon Grammar School have three teams in the final of the Yorkshire Cup, to be played later this term.

The following upper sixth students have gained colours for their **commitment and excellence** in sport:

Rugby Full Colours: Jack Newby, Piers Burke, Joshua Hall, Freddie Wright.

Rugby Half Colours: Ben Mewes, Mate Pocs, Robert Wilmore.

Hockey Full Colours: Alice Foster, Sophie Lake, Mary Cox, Tamsin Cutmore.

Commitment and Performance in cross country and swimming: Phoebe Greensit

The following students have gained **Performance** ties as follows:

Abigail Lovel, rugby. Abigail has got through to the Yorkshire Summer Camp for U18s.

Natasha Lovel, rowing. Natasha was selected for the regional camp trials in January.

Harriet Sowray and Louise Taylor, hockey and have reached the National finals in indoor hockey.

Poppy Robinson, Mena Scatchard and Marnie Scatchard, cross country and have reached the National finals.

The U13 girls' indoor **cricket** team finished second in the regional round of the Lady Taverners' competition. In their first ever match they beat Harrogate High School by 14 runs and in their second match they beat St Aidan's B team by 24 runs. Unfortunately they lost their final game to St Aidan's A team by 11 runs, meaning they failed to qualify for the next round. However it was a very impressive start to their cricket careers, having only had two practice sessions. The team are:

Polly Mallon, Isabella Royston, Bella Weston, Georgi Houseman, Agatha Scott, Poppy Lawson, Molly Crowther, Millie Lock and Abi Knowles.

Congratulations also go to Harry Cosham who is competing in the English **Alpine Ski** Championships in Italy in March. He will compete in the Slalom and Giant Slalom races in the U14 boys' category at the English Championships and our best wishes go to him.

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Ben Statham, who has recently joined the school, is also to be congratulated for his sporting achievement; he recently competed in Sheffield for the Yorkshire U13 **badminton** squad against all the northern counties in the 'north midway badminton league'. Only 10 boys are selected from the whole of Yorkshire so he has done extremely well.

The following fifth and sixth form students took part in the **Drax Environmental Challenge** and are through to the semi-finals which take place on 29 June at the Elvington Museum. Helen Elsworth, Alicia Bailey, Natasha Lovel, Abigail Lovel and Poppy Jagger. Well done to them all and we wish them luck.

The next **Careers and Higher Education Evening** takes place on **Wednesday, 8 March** from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Approximately 55 organisations will be participating from across the arts, humanities, languages, business, finance, law, teaching and public sector areas. A wide range of universities and colleges will also attend to advise students about courses across all areas of study. This very popular evening aims to give students and parents the opportunity to learn about apprenticeships, training schemes, work experience and study abroad to help equip them for future careers and university courses. A presentation will also be given at 8pm by one of the participating 'study abroad' organisations. We look forward to welcoming you to this evening.

I am delighted to have awarded a plethora of **Headmaster's Commendations** this term to hard-working individuals who have produced an excellent piece of work for their teacher. These have been in a variety of subjects, including English, PSHCEe, geography and art for example. The award of a Headmaster's Commendation is kept on a student's school file, in addition to them being presented with a certificate.

I am delighted to announce that the final amount raised during **Charity Week** for BRACE was £12,384.32p, which is one of the highest, if not the highest, total ever raised by students. BRACE were overwhelmed by the generosity of the students and Chief Executive, Mark Poarch, said, "This was a truly remarkable effort. In one week, they nearly broke not only their own record, but also the best total we have received from any supporting organisation in recent years. It just shows what commitment, enthusiasm and imagination can achieve!"

The recent **Sixth Form Open Evening** was incredibly successful and certainly host to the most students ever to attend. It has resulted in 20 girl boarders, 14 boy boarders and 90 day students applying to join our sixth form in September from other schools.

37 current Year 8 students sat the **entry test** to join RGS in Year 9 (third form) in September, with 17 passing the tests. This is again one of the highest number of students sitting the tests since inception.

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The **Senior Production of 'She Stoops to Conquer'** takes place on Thursday, 23 March through to Saturday, 26 March and we hope parents and students will support what will be an excellent performance of this classic comedy. Tickets will be available shortly.

The **Parents' Association Masked Ball** on 24 June is selling tables quickly. There are 10 left so if you would like to book one please contact Mrs Kinread by email kinreadc@ripongrammar.co.uk

The **ski trip** departs this coming Saturday and we wish them all a very enjoyable trip. My thanks go to Mr Margerison for his organisation of this opportunity for students.

A list of **forthcoming events** is attached for your information and I hope to see you at one of these next half-term.

With best wishes for a relaxing half-term holiday, and thank you for all your support and encouragement this term; it is much appreciated by everyone at school.

Yours sincerely

M L Pearman
Headmaster

Forthcoming events this term:

w/c 27 February	Upper sixth mocks
Tues, 28 February	Third form parents' evening 4.30pm – 7pm
Wed, 8 March	Careers and Higher Education Evening
Thurs, 9 March	First form parents' evening 4.30pm – 7pm
Mon, 13 March	Lower sixth geography field trip
Tues, 14 March	Lower sixth geography field trip
Thurs, 16 March	World Challenge meeting 4pm – 7pm
Thurs, 23 March	Senior Drama – 'She Stoops to Conquer'
Fri, 24 March	Senior Drama – 'She Stoops to Conquer'
Sat, 25 March	Senior Drama – 'She Stoops to Conquer'
Wed, 29 March	Second form parents' evening 4.30pm – 7pm
Fri, 31 March	Concert at Holy Trinity, Ripon (all choirs and ensembles)
Wed, 6 April – Mon, 10 April	Geography trip to Iceland
Fri, 7 April – Wed, 12 April	Classics trip to Greece
Fri, 7 April	School closes at 3.55pm for Easter holidays
Monday, 24 April	School opens for Summer term

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