



Re-founded 1555

# Ripon Grammar School

*Helping shape the future since 1555*



## From the headmaster

27 May 2016

Dear Parents

### Summer half term newsletter 2016

I thought it would be helpful to outline some of the progress that has been made in school during the first half of the Summer term, traditionally a very busy time of the year. Much of what happens is the same every year; the sixth form and fifth form students are now on study leave and, in some cases, are already well into the season of GCSE and AS examinations. The A2 examinations generally start after half term. I am sure that we all hope that the outcomes for August will reflect their hard work and commitment to their studies. **The results are issued on 18 and 25 August.**

**Recruitment for 2017** is featured strongly in the second half term, along with the open evening for first form entry in September 2017. This is to be held on 27 June at 5.30pm. Testing dates are on Saturday, 10 and 17 September. **Recruitment has been very successful for 2016** and I would imagine the school will be full with over 900 students on roll in September.

I am looking forward to **Lower School Prizegiving on Wednesday, 6 July**. We have invited **all third year parents** in addition to prize winners in the first and second year. I hope that you will be able to attend what promises to be a very enjoyable afternoon. Our speaker this year is Nick Chester, Old Riponian and Technical Director of Renault Sport F1.

**All students in year 4 and the lower sixth form will leave school on Wednesday 6 July at 12.05pm** (after lesson 4). This is due to Lower School Prizegiving being held that afternoon which does not involve them. I hope this does not cause any inconvenience. Please note therefore that these students will need to make their own way home as school buses will come at the usual time of 3:55pm.

On the **sporting front**, I was very pleased that two teams, the U15s and the senior team won the White Rose **rugby** tournaments whilst the U13s finished runners-up.

**In netball**, the first form team competed in the Regional School Games at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. The team of Amelia Reed, Alice Simmerson, Ella Foster, Eve Maylor, Grace Marczak, Hannah Clark, Georgie Borchard, Charlie Taylor-Jackson and Abi Price won the area tournament to take their place in the competition. Congratulations also to Katie and Emily Reed, Jessica Merrin, Molly

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Reed and Amy Mackenzie who represented North Yorkshire in the netball County tournament in Bradford. Amy Mackenzie was also selected to the North of England netball squad.

The U12 A and B **hockey** teams enjoyed success in their Area tournament with the A team now area champions and the B team runners up. The U15s are also Area champions and eight students were selected to represent the Harrogate and Craven hockey team which competed in the inter area annual tournament. The A team won and the B team were runners-up.

The following students have been selected to attend the Leeds Junior Regional Performance Centre (Yorkshire) **for hockey**: Georgina Turner, Emily Hamby, Kathryn Barrett, Lucy Williams, Amelia Borchard, Millie Simenacz, Olivia Borchard, Penny Baker, Ben Pimley and Henry Hanson.

Marijke Booth finished as runner-up in the U14 age group at the UK **rock climbing** championships. These were held in Glasgow in May and this is a fantastic achievement.

Congratulations go to Toby Osman who is part of the **British triathlon elite talent programme**. Toby competed in his first race in April where he finished third and won a bronze medal.

A successful season for **cricket** so far with U12 team reaching the area final, where they meet Richmond and are hopeful for a place in the County semi-finals. The U13 team are through to round 3 of the Yorkshire Cup where they await the winners of Richmond and Nunthorpe. The U14s lost in the Yorkshire Cup to King James's School and the U15s sadly lost out to Ampleforth, despite an excellent batting display. Congratulations to Joseph Horner and Connor Eddleston who will represent North Yorkshire U15s, and to Lewis O'Donnell and Finlay Bean who will represent Yorkshire U14s, as well as Sophie Richardson who is playing for Yorkshire Ladies' U15s.

Well done to the junior and inter girls track and field cup teams after qualifying for the regional finals in Hull in June in **athletics**. Well done also to Sola Sowole, Harvey Toomes, Elliot Hutchinson, Kathryn Barrett, Jessica Merrin, Anna Marley, Robbie Eames and Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla who have all qualified to represent Harrogate and Craven at the North Yorkshire finals in June.

The **swimming** team have enjoyed success throughout the season and finished third in the Leeds and District finals.

Oscar Canning and Thomas Whitelegg are both amongst the 120 regional finalists in **the Royal Mail's Young Letter Writer of the Year**; over 100,000 entries were received.

Marcus Tomlinson in the fourth form was awarded 'best in school' and a gold certificate in the **UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge** whilst Daniel Evans in the fifth form was awarded 'best in year' and a gold certificate.

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The **Young Enterprise** team have enjoyed a very successful year and, as I write, they have won the North Yorkshire round in York and now proceed to the Yorkshire stage of the competition, which is to be held later this term. As well as winning the overall North Yorkshire title against a number of independent schools, they were also recognised for the Best Presentation, the Best Environmental Product and the Best Financial Management at the county final, held at the Merchant Adventurers' Hall, in York.

The highlight of this years' **music calendar** was the production of 'Anything Goes'. Whilst mainly a senior production, a good number of third form students took to the stage, the orchestra pit, or technical crew to put on a fantastic show. Those lower school pupils involved were: Emma Belward, Clara Damman, Susie Morgan, Charlotte Titterington-Coleman, Alfie McEvoy, Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla and Lewis Dunn.

**Musicality, the school junior choir**, was very successful in their entry at the Harrogate competitive festival. They won their class for choirs consisting of members from the third form and under. They beat stiff competition from Harrogate Grammar and Harrogate Ladies' College. This is a superb achievement for all involved and richly deserved.

The **chamber choir** have had a busy period over the last term. They were invited to sing at the Ripon Cathedral Festival where they performed alongside all RGS senior choirs as well as a huge number of primary school musicians. They have recently travelled to Durham University where they sang choral evensong in the beautiful Bede Chapel. They also sang choral evensong at Ripon Cathedral in early May, helping to continue the centuries old tradition of sung services in English cathedrals.

The **Clocktower door** has now been replaced and is fully compliant with disabled access. It also has a key pad on it to improve school security. There has been a considerable delay at the other end of the North corridor, leading out to the maths block. This is due to the excavation of some rooms underground and some asbestos content in the soil. Until a solution to these problems has been found, the development is on hold. However, I would expect it to be finished before the end of the summer term. Although this is causing some inconvenience the students are managing the situation well.

There is little progress to report on the **3G pitch**. This will be slow until planning is granted on the Whitcliffe Lane site. As soon as I have further news, I will let you know.

**Speech day** for the coming academic year has moved to **Friday, 25 November** when our speaker will be Bridget Kendall. She has recently taken up a new post as Master of Peterhouse College, University of Cambridge, having left her post as foreign correspondent for the BBC. Her connection to Ripon is that her father attended RGS; Professor Kendall was an eminent Cambridge mathematician. I know she will be a very inspiring speaker. Our departing sixth form students will be informed of the date before they leave and I am sure they will put it in their diaries to ensure they can attend.

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Many of you will remember **Dr Paul Hullah** from Lower School Prize giving last year. An Old Riponian who lectures on English Literature in Japan, Dr Hullah recently finished a new book on the work of Victorian poet Christina Rossetti, to be published next year. Dr Hullah has generously agreed to sponsor a poetry prize which will be awarded for the second time in November 2016. It will be judged by the English department and Dr Hullah himself. The prize will be presented at Speech Day on 25 November. Any poetic form, rhyme scheme or narrator is allowed. Full details are on our school website

There have been a number of **new staff appointments** to be made as a result of staff moving on to new posts, as well as retiring. As a consequence it has been a very busy season of interviewing and further detail is below. The posts advertised have attracted strong fields and good appointments have been made.

Mrs Pybus, our **school bursar**, has resigned from her post here for family reasons and her replacement is Mrs Alison Balsdon, who has experience as an FMS bursar across many schools. She will start on 13 June.

Mrs Garmory has been appointed as **head of PSHCEe**, taking over from Mrs Southwell from September.

Miss Ireland, for personal reasons, has moved to Blue Coat School in Hereford. She will be replaced by Mrs Seymour, who is currently teaching part time and will now be full time teaching **English**.

Mr Garvey will stand down from his role as **Classics** teacher whilst Mrs Lofthouse has decided to retire from her role as **Head of German**. A replacement is currently being sought.

A number of internal posts need to be filled including Deputy Head of Sixth Form (following Mr Pepper's departure) and houseparent in School House. A Deputy Senior Houseparent is to be appointed in Johnson House.

Following the success of last year's **RGS Bake Off**, we will be repeating the event later this term. Parents and students can enter the competition and must bake a decorated cake, or cakes, with a **Book/Literature** theme. Full details are on the school website and all proceeds will go to our current charity, Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

There is an **Old Rips reunion** on 2 July. I am sure that it will attract a good turnout and I am grateful to Mrs Woolfenden for organising this.

I hope that many of you will be able to support the junior production of '**Scrooge**', to be held on 14 and 15 July. Tickets will be on sale in due course.

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This year's major fundraiser for the **Parents' Association** is the summer raffle. It is designed as an inter-house competition with tickets being sold by the students to their families and friends. Each ticket sold will generate one House point. There will be a total of 16,000 tickets available, printed in the four House colours, and each student will be given 20 tickets to sell and may request more if they sell all their allocation. The raffle prizes this year are tremendous and the draw for the raffle takes place on 12 July. Some of the prizes include a VIP trip to Theakson's brewery in Masham with dinner for two at the White Bear, overnight stay and breakfast, Afternoon tea for eight and tour of Ridding Park kitchen garden, a luxury pre-Christmas getaway for two at Dalesend Cottages, Bedale and much more! Full details are on the school website. Cheques should be made payable to RGSPA and handed into Mrs Kinread on school reception if you wish to buy some!

I am very grateful to Mrs Campbell for all the work she undertakes in producing the **Clocktower** magazine; a superb production full of news about former students. It is available electronically on the school website.

I hope you have a very enjoyable half term and I hope to see you in the second half of the Summer term.

Yours sincerely

**M L Pearman**  
**Headmaster**

## Useful dates

w/c 6 June	First and second year exams
Mon, 13 June	Fourth form Art trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park
Mon, 20 June	New first form welcome evening 6.30pm
Tues, 21 June	New first form induction day
Thurs, 23 June	Concert and Music Colours 6.30pm
Mon, 27 June	Open Evening for Year 7 in Sept 2017
Fri, 1 July	Second form Geography trip to Flamborough Head
Sat/Sun, 2/3 July	D of E Bronze assessment expedition
Sat, 2 July	Big Band at Aldborough Festival
Wed, 6 July	Lower School Prizegiving 2pm
7 – 11 July	Lower Sixth Geography trip to Sorrento

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w/c 11 July  
Wed, 13 July  
Thurs, 14 July  
Fri, 22 July

Thurs, 18 Aug  
Thurs, 25 Aug  
31 Aug – 3 Sep  
Mon, 5 Sep  
Tues, 6 Sep

Lower Sixth on Work Experience  
Sports Day/RGS Bake off  
**School closed – Staff Training**  
Commemoration Service in Ripon Cathedral 11am  
**School closes for summer holidays at 12.30pm**  
A levels results 9am  
GCSE results 9am  
D of E Gold assessment expedition  
**School closed – Staff Training**  
**School opens for Autumn term**

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I hope that you are looking forward to some sunshine over the half term break.

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