



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



6 April, 2017

End of Spring term newsletter 2017

Dear Parents

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we approach the end of the Spring term. **Reports** for the fifth form, lower sixth and upper sixth have all been completed and those year groups will be busily preparing for their external examinations in the summer. I would like to wish them all well for the summer and hope that their hard work will be rewarded.

Just a reminder that **study leave dates** are as follows:

Fifth form	Friday, 12 May 2017 following leavers' assembly at 10am
Lower Sixth	Friday, 12 May 2017 at 3.55pm No leavers' assembly
	Monday, 12 June 2017 Return for A2 teaching
Upper Sixth	Friday, 26 May 2017 following leavers' assembly at 10am

(The Upper Sixth farewell evening is on Thursday, 25 May 2017 at 7pm)

As soon as the Summer term starts, the fourth years will take their end of year **examinations**, while the first, second and third years will take theirs later in the term. There is no doubt that it is a very busy period of time as we approach the summer examination season.

For both the upper-sixth and fifth form, there will be extensive changes in the examination system which will make their experience very different from previous years. The upper-sixth will have mainly linear examinations whilst the fifth form will be awarded numbers (not letters) in mathematics and English. I am sure both students and staff have worked very hard together to ensure that the students are as well prepared as they can possibly be.

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The fact that students are so busy makes it all the more remarkable that we were able to enjoy the **senior production of 'She Stoops to Conquer'**. This was an outstanding production, coupled to an incredible amount of line-learning. Mr Fearnley and his team are worthy of congratulation for staging a very enjoyable production.

Our musicians excelled at the end of March with their **concert, featuring Vivaldi's Gloria**. Once again the range of talent and the commitment of students and staff made this a very impressive occasion and I am very grateful to Mr Seymour for staging it.

With regard to the **3G pitch**, it appears that the planning will be heard at North Yorkshire Committee level in June. Harrogate Borough Council has removed their objections to the proposals and governors are very happy with the financial arrangements to ensure that this facility is not a liability in the future from a financial perspective. The facility will cost in the region of £750,000 for which the school will not have to pay anything. It will be available for use by the community as well as by our students, and it will be floodlit which means it will be able to be used in the winter by the school. There is no doubt that this will be a tremendous facility for the school and I am delighted that it will reach fruition in the next year or so.

I have also submitted a bid to the DfE for a **dining facility** and, with additional monies being made available for grammar schools, there may well be some funding which RGS can take advantage of. A bid may need to be submitted in due course and I will pursue this next term if required.

Lower School Prizegiving on Wednesday, 12 July will feature Old Riponian Nick Chester, who is currently Technical Director for the Renault Formula 1 team. Invitations to this will be issued next term and he is bringing a Formula 1 car to display on the day, which I am sure will be of interest to many students as well as to parents.

The **School Officer** interview process is now completed and I am delighted to announce that the following students have been appointed to these key roles.

Head Boy
Ben Pimley

Head Girl
Annissa Cook

Deputy Head Boy
Lorçan Gallagher
Luke Brotherdale-Smith

Deputy Head Girl
Louisa Chatterton
Kate Charlton
Alice Peat

These new school officers will take up their roles formally on 12 June, when the upper sixth leave at the end of the May half term. **Prefects** will also be interviewed by the sixth form team and the announcement of these appointments will follow next term.

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Tickets for the **Parents' Association Summer Ball** have been selling well but there are still a few more tables available. If you would like to book please contact Mrs Kinread at school or by email at kinreadc@ripongrammar.co.uk Moreover, if anyone would like to donate a raffle prize, or if anyone would be interested in a sponsorship opportunity for welcome drinks, a magician, the band etc, please let Mrs Whitham, Chair of the PA, know. Her email address is julia_w_61@hotmail.co.uk

I would like to inform you that the price of a '**meal deal**' in the school canteen will increase from £2.30 to £2.35 with effect from Monday, 24 April. I am sure you will agree that this still represents excellent value for money and the number of students eating in school is one of the highest in any school in North Yorkshire. This reflects tremendously well on Mrs Gardner and her team who provide this service, but we will continue to strive to improve it, especially service towards the end of lunch. This was raised by parents in a recent questionnaire at a second form parents' evening.

A very successful **Study Abroad Roadshow**, organised by Student World, was held in school for the first time in March and attended by over one hundred students from the fourth, fifth years and sixth form. Representatives from thirteen universities from the USA, Canada, France, Spain, Germany and Switzerland were able to offer advice and guidance to our students about study abroad. The event provided an excellent opportunity for students to talk with delegates and to learn about what would be involved in applying to university outside of the UK and about study and life within each of their countries.

The **Yorkshire Cup rugby** took place in Wakefield and featured three teams, the U14s, U16s and 1st XV, but all three teams lost on the day. The 1st XV perhaps competed the best but lost 15-10 to Crossley Heath. It is a significant achievement to get three teams through to the Yorkshire Cup finals and both students and staff should be very proud.

More good news also on the **rugby** front, with the U14, U15, U16 and 1st XV all qualifying for the White Rose finals, with the U12s qualifying for the 'waterfall' tournament, which they won. The U14s finished runners-up in the White Rose, whilst both the U15 and 1st XV were crowned champions.

The U18 **girls' rugby** team were also crowned North Yorkshire champions and then competed in the Yorkshire round, finishing runners-up.

The U14 **girls' gymnastics** team took part in the Yorkshire Floor and Vault championships in Hull and the team won overall Bronze, while Isabella Weston won individual Gold in the vault.

Ella Foster has qualified for the indoor **athletics** UK finals and Joe Westgarth has been selected to represent North Yorkshire at **cricket**.

Well done to the junior and inter-girls' **cross country** teams who gained success when they finished second in the North of England Championships in Manchester this term. The third form boys' team also

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finished an excellent fourth place. Alex Glegg and Marnie Scatchard represented North Yorkshire in the English Schools' cross country championships.

Congratulations to Mia Barnett, George White and Charlie Warne who came second in the regional **equestrian** show jumping competition recently, narrowly missing out on qualifying for the nationals.

Well done to David Blyton who represented England in **petanque** and to Ella Jamieson who won the North Yorkshire schools' **cyclocross** championships.

Jhabin Shahi has been selected for the England **VX** squad and Christa Wilson has qualified for the European Youth Olympic trials in **swimming**. Our congratulations go to them also.

The Summer term promises, as ever, to be exceptionally busy and there are a number of **events** which I hope parents will be able to attend, such as the PA Summer Ball, Lower School Prizegiving, the Junior Production and the Upper Sixth farewell evening. There is also a **welcome evening** for the new first form on 19 June, followed by their **induction day** on 20 June, and the **Open Evening** for entry to RGS in September 2018 on Monday, 26 June at 6.30pm. If you know of any parents who may be interested in attending this please make them aware.

I would like to wish you all a very enjoyable Easter and hopefully I will see some of you next term, sadly my final one at Ripon Grammar School.

Yours sincerely

M L Pearman
Headmaster

Forthcoming events

Monday, 24 April	School opens for Summer term
w/c 24 April	Fourth year exams
Fri, 28 April – Wed, 3 May	Geography trip to Sorrento
Mon, 1 May	School closed – Bank Holiday
w/c 2 May	Third year exams
Sunday, 7 May	Boarders' Summer tea at 4pm
w/c 8 May	Third year to Beverley Park
w/c 22 May	Fourth year on Work Experience

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Fri, 26 May	Geography trip
Fri, 26 May	School closes at 3.55pm for half term
Mon, 5 June	School opens after half term
w/c 5 June	First and second year exams
Mon, 19 June	New first form welcome evening
Tues, 20 June	New first form induction day
Sat, 24 June	Parents' Association Masked Summer Ball
Mon, 26 June	Open Evening – first form Sept 2018
Tues, 27 June – Thurs, 29 June	Lower Sixth to Oxford
Wed, 28 June	UCAS Convention, Lower Sixth
Fri, 30 June	Second year Geography trip to Holderness Coast
Fri, 30 June	Lower Sixth to Newcastle/Northumbria Open Day
Mon, 3 July	Sixth form induction afternoon (external students)
Tues, 4 July	Sixth form induction day (all students)
Tues, 4 July	Jazz evening and presentation of Music colours
Wed, 5 – Fri, 7 July	Lower Sixth to Cambridge
Thurs, 6 July	Sports Day
w/c 10 July	Lower Sixth Work Experience
Wed, 12 July	Lower School Prizegiving – speaker Nick Chester
Thurs, 13 July	School Closed for Staff Training (Great Yorkshire Show)
Thurs 13 July and Fri, 14 July	Junior Production of A Midsummer Night's Dream
Sat, 15 – Wed, 19 July	Choir tour
Fri, 21 July	Commemoration Service in Ripon Cathedral at 11am
Fri, 21 July	School closes at 12.30pm for Summer holidays

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