



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Engineering Specialism within a Grammar School



15 May 2015

Dear Parents

SUMMER TERM NEWSLETTER

A warm welcome to my summer term newsletter and I hope this will provide some useful information about what has been going on in school so far this term.

The fifth and lower sixth form students have already left on **study leave** and we wish them well in their forthcoming examinations, whilst the upper sixth will be leaving at the end of next week on their study leave. I am looking forward to the **farewell evening** for the Upper Sixth on **Thursday, 21 May**, which **starts at 7pm**, and I hope to see many parents here.

The new **school officers** have been appointed and they are looking forward to taking up their roles on their return from study leave on 8 June. In the meantime, students in the third and fourth form will have the opportunity to act as prefects; the week before half term will be taken by the third form and the week after half term will be taken by the fourth form.

With regard to **staffing**, there have been a number of appointments to the teaching staff, notably in the biology and art department. Mrs Gallagher, who is currently teaching at Heworth Grange Comprehensive School in Gateshead, is joining the **biology** department and Mrs Garmory, who is re-locating with her husband from the South of England, is joining the **art** department. I am currently interviewing for an **English** teacher and hope to make an appointment very soon.

Mrs Pybus, will be starting in the role of **bursar** on 8 June and she will work alongside Mrs Forder until she retires at the end of this term. Mrs Bennington's post of **cover supervisor** has been made established, following her long-term maternity cover for Mrs Gardiner, who is moving away from Ripon with her family. Mrs Schofield, in the design technology department, goes on maternity leave shortly and Mr Nicholson will be covering her maternity leave.

The school had a non-uniform day on Thursday, 14 May to raise money for the DEC appeal in aid of victims of the **earthquake in Nepal**. At the time of writing, I do not have the figure for the sum raised but I know it will be a substantial amount. You may be aware that we have Nepalese students in school currently and they are very appreciative of the efforts the school is making on behalf of their families.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone to sponsored me for the **London Marathon**. I enjoyed the experience of running very much (although not the training!), and I raised just over £3000 for the Calvert Trust which will enable them to carry on with their excellent work supporting people with disabilities and enabling them to access the outdoors.

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The **extension to Johnson House** has been progressing very well and the anticipated completion date of the end of June is still very much achievable. I am also trying to ensure the refurbishment of the wash rooms in School House, which I hope will be done over the summer holiday.

I am now able to confirm that the **testing dates for entry into Year 7 for September 2016** are Saturday, 12 September and Saturday, 19 September. Testing for Year 6 students will take place at RGS and will be overseen by the Local Authority, as they are the admitting authority for the school. The **Open Evening** for this is held on 29 June, starting at 5.30pm in the school hall.

The **junior quiz team** won the Yorkshire round of the Junior Schools' Challenge quiz competition against Hymers College and now look forward to competing in the intra-regional finals.

There is a **new poetry prize** for students in the fourth and fifth form, endowed by Dr Paul Hullah, Old Riponian, who teaches English literature in the University of Meiji Gakuin, Tokyo, Japan. I hope that we will receive many entries of an original poem inspired by Christina Rossetti for the judges to be considering in order to award the prize on **Speech Day** on 6 November. The speaker on this occasion is Mark Hills, Old Riponian and computer programmer with a British visual effects company in London. Mark was on the team for the film 'Gravity' with George Clooney, for which they won the Oscar for Best Visual Effects, and has also worked on the Tom Cruise film 'Edge of Tomorrow' and the recent 'Paddington' film.

We are also looking forward to **Lower School Prizegiving** on 8 July where our guest speaker is Professor Caroline Wilkinson, Old Riponian and currently Director of Liverpool School of Art and Design.

Over the next eighteen months the library and food technology department are hoping to put together a **Ripon Grammar School recipe book** to raise funds for the Jenny Unwin Appeal and the Parents' Association. To launch the scheme there will be a **'Great RGS Bake Off' competition** for students and parents on Wednesday 1st July 2015. There will be an overall winner, but within school students will also be able to earn House points. All the cake entries will be sliced up and sold the following day for £1 per slice. Proceeds from this cake sale will be shared between the Jenny Unwin Appeal and will contribute towards the cost of producing the recipe books. Look out for more information after half term.

Congratulations to the **rugby** teams, in particular the U14 and U15 teams who both won their grand finals of the White Rose Rugby Series in Halifax earlier this term. Full details are on the school website.

Congratulations also to those students who went to the England **Netball** Schools' Festival. The U14 team came 4th in the tournament and the U16 team came second in their age group.

Ripon Grammar School's **Young Enterprise Team** won the North Yorkshire Regional Competition. 'Team Apollo's' prize for winning this prestigious competition is a training day at Sandler Training. The team now go forward to the Yorkshire round of the competition in June.

Sophie Richardson has been selected to play **cricket** for Yorkshire U15's women's team. She played vs Cheshire on 30 April and her team won.

Nine students competed in the area **athletics trials** at Cleckheaton and have all qualified to represent Harrogate and Craven in the North Yorkshire Schools' Athletics competition.

Further details of all of these achievements, and others, are on the new school website which I hope you are finding informative and easy to navigate.

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I hope that many of you will be able to support the junior production of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', to be held on 2 and 3 July. Tickets will be on sale in due course.

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 include donations from the Feversham Arms, Solberge Hall, Swinton Park, Crab Manor, Specialised Bike Store, Half Moon at Sharow and dozens more. The draw for the raffle takes place on Thursday, 9 July. Please ensure all ticket money and ticket counterfoils are returned to school by **Wednesday, 8 July**. Cheques should be made payable to RGSPA and handed into Mrs Kinread on school reception.

Details of all forthcoming events are on the Calendar on the school website for your information. This includes key dates during this and the **forthcoming academic year (2015-16)**, together with term dates and holiday dates. This will continue to be updated as new events are added.

I wish you all a very pleasant half term holiday when it comes and I would like to thank all parents for their support of school which is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

M L Pearman
Headmaster

Forthcoming events – Summer term 2015

w/c 18 May	Fourth form work experience
20 May	New third form induction day
22 May	Upper sixth form study leave commences
22 May	School closes at 3.55pm for half term
1 June	School opens
8 June	Lower sixth return from study leave
8 June	First and second form exams
17 June	Lower sixth UCAS convention, Leeds
22 June	New first form welcome evening from 7pm
23 June	New first form induction day
24 June	Induction day for external sixth form students
25 June	Induction day for all new sixth form students
29 June	Open evening for first form intake 2016 from 5.30pm
1 July	Sports Day and 'Bake Off' competition
7 July	RGS Art exhibition showcasing students' work from 6.30pm
8 July	Lower school prizegiving
15 July	School closed for staff training
17 July	Commemoration service at Ripon Cathedral at 11am School closes at 12.30pm
13 August	A level examination results from 9am in school library
20 August	GCSE examination results from 9am in school library

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