



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



From the headmaster

21 July 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

END OF SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2016

I hope you will enjoy reading the RGS News which is packed with articles and achievements by students over the term. In addition to sport, there has been success in music, business and enterprise and in virtually every possible sphere of school activity you can imagine, a tribute to both the staff and students; the students for seizing the opportunities; the staff for giving up their free time to provide them. The ambition and talents of the students is seemingly endless and I am very proud of what they have achieved and how well they manage their time. The list seems to get longer and I know I have missed out much.

I am looking forward to the coming year where I am sure that there will be the same level of activity and involvement. The activity outside the classroom is so important in developing the all-round character of students here. It enables the development of attributes such as resilience, optimism, enthusiasm, creativity, humility, emotional intelligence, sensitivity and determination which can provide long term benefits in terms of employability and health. I cannot begin to list all the trips and activities that are provided by staff voluntarily and willingly. There is no doubt that this is one of the features of RGS and I am incredibly grateful to all the staff for providing students with such a wide range of opportunity to learn and develop skills outside the classroom.

I was delighted to welcome the Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, Mr Dodd, to **Lower School Prizegiving**. Mr Dodd recognised just how good a school Ripon Grammar School is and the importance it has in the locality for the economy. He described all the students as winners because of their good fortune to attend such a school. I was delighted to see so many commendations for effort over the year but I hope that students who did not achieve one this year will be inspired to try harder next year. Although not all students can win a Form Prize, everyone can achieve a commendation. The fundamental principle concerning the office of lord-lieutenant is that he or she is Her Majesty's representative in his county, and consequently it is his first and foremost duty to uphold the dignity of the Crown. As the representative in his county, the Lord-Lieutenant remains non-political, does not hold office in any political party and is unpaid.

Mr Dodd is a successful entrepreneur and wealth creator especially interested in creating employment in rural areas. Amongst his many achievements is the creation of a multinational Global Services and Manufacturing Group with four manufacturing plants in the UK. He is Chairman and major shareholder in two high tech software and systems companies.

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Mr Dodd's public sector activities include, amongst others, Chair and Pro-Chancellor of the University of Hull; Chairman of the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Chair of the joint Hull York Medical School. In 2014 Mr Dodd was awarded a CBE for services to the UK economy. He was very clear that the future generation has a very important role to play, particularly in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, to provide a workforce to compete internationally. The focus on engineering through the appointment of Mrs Schofield as STEM co-ordinator seems very apt. I am sure that she will raise the profile of STEM both here and in local primary schools.

The **access improvements in school** will be complete at the end of term with ramps installed at the end of the admin corridor, the clock tower entrance and the end of the North Corridor.

Mr Hogg, the new premises manager, is beginning to catch up with a maintenance backlog and the school is looking increasingly smarter - but there is still a long way to go. Much maintenance is planned for the summer term and governors have committed considerable resource to enable this work to be done, mainly painting and repairs.

Planning permission for the new 3G pitch has been submitted and we hope to hear whether planning has been granted in August. The wish to build a **new dining hall** is still a declared aim and this development would certainly improve the school's infrastructure significantly. Architects are currently working on plans but no funding is yet in place.

There are a number of **staffing** changes: perhaps the most significant is the retirement of Mr Garvey after 32 years of service to RGS, a remarkable achievement nearly reaching a century of terms. Mr Garvey is very fondly regarded by students who appreciate his caustic wit and unstinting enthusiasm, whether it be on a sports field or in the classroom. I don't think we will see his like again; a teacher of PE and Classics, a most unusual combination reflecting a member of staff with a most unusual range of talents; painting, fishing as well as sport. Mr Garvey joined RGS in 1984 from St Bede's in Manchester and our best wishes go to him for a long and happy retirement. Mr Garvey will be replaced by Mr Harding, Durham graduate and rugby and cricket specialist. Mrs Lofthouse has decided to retire from her post of Head of German after 26 years at RGS. She has achieved outstanding results in her time and has kept German on the curriculum when many schools have decided to dispense with it. She will be replaced by Mr Astley, a graduate of University College, London currently teaching German and French in Oxfordshire. Particular congratulations also go to Mr Pepper who has been appointed as Assistant Head at Ryedale School after 3 years at RGS. His outstanding teaching will be much missed, as will his pastoral support of sixth form students and his passion for philosophy, soccer and boxing. He will be replaced by Mr McMillan who is currently acting Head of RE at Thirsk School. Mrs Pybus has sadly had to resign from her post as bursar and in a short time she made many improvements in the management of finances. We wish her well. She has been replaced by Mrs Balsdon. Mrs Garmory has been appointed Head of PSHCEe taking over the reins from Mrs Southwell who will focus on her SENCO role and we welcome back Mrs Lyons after her maternity leave. In boarding, Mr Spiers will take over from Mr Bruce as Assistant Houseparent whilst Mrs Sanderson has been appointed Deputy Senior Houseparent in Johnson House and will be resident.

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Miss Bennett has been appointed Deputy Head of Sixth Form replacing Mr Pepper. Mrs Garner has resigned from her post as School Health Worker and we are seeking a replacement for September.

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. Oscar Lees has been selected for the Yorkshire elite player programme.

In netball, the first form team competed in the Regional School Games at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield and finished fifth. 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 to Katie Reed who has been selected by Yorkshire netball whilst Amelia Reed and Harriet Strachan have been selected for the Yorkshire Jets Development 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 also won and the B team were runners-up too in this tournament. The following eight second form students who represented Harrogate & Craven in the Inter Area hockey tournament were Harriet Strachan, Holly Newby, Mena Scatchard, Annabelle Glegg, Holly Rutter, Lily Aikman, Imogen Hubbard and Millie Lockey. The following students have represented North Yorkshire in hockey: Olivia Borchard, Maisie Heap, Penny Baker, Henry Hanson, Poppy Lawson, Georgie Borchard. Olivia Borchard has been selected for the Yorkshire squad. Penny Baker and Henry Hanson have been selected to attend the Leeds Junior Regional Performance Centre (Yorkshire).

Marijke Booth finished as runner-up in the U14 age group at the UK **rock climbing** championships in Glasgow followed by finishing 13th in the Euro Youth Colours in Austria; a fantastic achievement. Christa Wilson won bronze in 200 and 50 fly in addition to gold in the 100 fly in the Regional Championships in Sheffield and will now progress to the National finals in the 100 and 200 meter butterfly. Anna Marley has also qualified to swim in the British National Championships in the 200 m backstroke and 400 m individual medley. She will also be swimming in the English Nationals during the summer. Congratulations to Imogen Vollans who finished fifth in the Regional Trampoline Finals Level 6 who qualified for the National Finals in July. Harry Cosham has been accepted by Ski England to represent the British team following his success in the trials.

This has been a successful season for **cricket** with the U12 team reaching the area final and some very enjoyable house competition in the sport. 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.

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In **rounders**, the Under 15 squad are area champions defeating St Aidan's in the final. Congratulations to Hattie Sowray, Jess Merrin, Niamh Frost, Molly Reed, Amelia Borchard, Georgie Turner, Jemima Strachan, Amy Mackenzie and Sophie Richardson.

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**. Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla is the North Yorkshire 800m champion. The Junior Girls reached the North East regional finals of the Track & Field Cup. Robbie Eames, Isabella Binks and Funmi Sowole all represented H&C in the North Yorkshire Championships. Particularly well done to Isabella Binks who won the Y8 hurdles in a new area record, and to Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla who broke two area records in the 300 meters and triple jump. Other area champions included Sola Sowole in the 100m and long jump, and Archie Lawson in the triple jump, Harriet Strachan, shot, Robbie Eames, 300m, Will Barrett, discus, Abi Knowles, 200m and Funmi Sowole in the 100m. Sola Sowole has also been selected to compete in the English National Finals in the 100 meters.

Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla, Ella Foster and Poppy Lawson all competed in the National X-Country finals. Anika has also been selected for the U16 England orienteering squad and has recently been crowned Yorkshire and Humberside Orienteering Champion.

The winning house on Sports Day was Porteus who also won both the boys' and girls' competitions. Plenty of records broken too.

In **tennis** the Under 15s combined boys' and girls' team were winners of the Harrogate and Craven Aegon competition and now represent H and C in the next round.

In **VX**, Oliver Stocks has been selected to the England Youth VX squad. In gymnastics, Georgina Borchard has been selected on to the British Gymnastics Tumbling Performance Pathway designed for those on the journey to performing at a World Class level. In dance, Mia Nixon and Lois Wilson are part of the Switch Dance group who are regional champions and have recently competed in the National Dance Finals in London.

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.

This academic year saw a large increase in the number of pupils across all year groups taking the **UKMT Maths Challenge**. 403 pupils did it this year compared to 171 doing it last year. 268 pupils achieved a certificate this year compared to 120. Much of this increase in numbers was due to first form doing the Junior Maths Challenge and third form doing the intermediate Maths Challenge for the first time.

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The following pupils in second form achieved gold certificates in the **Junior Maths Challenge**: James Arcidiacono, Megan Bannister, William Barrett, Harry Cosham, Samyuktha Dasarathi, Amy Dunn, Freddie Dunn, Charlotte Everett, Amy Goodwin, Rafael Laybourne Ribeiro, Oscar Lees, Edward Mewes, Simeon Mitchell, Ben Rickard, Barnaby Sladden and Greta Taylor.

These are the first form pupils who got a gold certificate, also in the Junior Maths Challenge: Eleanor Brown, Bruno Holloway, Poppy Lawson, Maddie Penny, Chloe Stringwell, Shen Jie Yaw.

Chloe Stringwell and Shen Jie Yaw have collected Best in Year certificates whilst Barnaby Sladden has collected Best in School certificate for the UK Junior Maths Challenge.

Congratulations to Benedict Newman who gained a Distinction for his Grade 5 **Speaking of Poetry and Prose**.

The **Young Enterprise** team have enjoyed a very successful year and, as I write, they have won the North Yorkshire round in York and 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 year's **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 Big Band performed at the prestigious Aldborough Festival and received rave reviews.

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.

Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla has been awarded a place in the **National Youth Wind Orchestra** which is a superb achievement for a student at such a young age.

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In the **Ripon Young Musician** annual festival, the following lower school students were very successful in the Ripon Young Musician competition at the beginning of the academic year:

Shen Jie Yaw (first form); winner of junior ensemble and solo piano classes

Susie Morgan (third form); winner of Senior Piano class

James Kitchingman (second form); winner of junior vocal class

Alfie McAvoy (third form); winner of intermediate vocal class

Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla (third form); winner of mixed discipline (Piano and Clarinet)

Second form student Alexander Abrahams sang the treble solos in 'Elijah' with the Cleveland Philharmonic Chorus and renowned Baritone Alan Opie and also with Aled Jones in a charity performance at Harrogate International Centre.

In **music**, Half Colours were awarded to Anika Schwarze -Chintapatla, James Kitchingman and Harry Canning all of whom have shown great dedication to a number of musical ensembles and choirs during their time in the lower school. At senior level, Alec Cavell-Taylor, Montie Merchie and Joy Sutcliffe were awarded Full Colours.

The Ripon Grammar School Wind Band and Big Band were invited to play on the band stand on the final day of the **Great Yorkshire Show**. Between them they played three sets of film music, jazz and pop much to the delight of the hundreds of people sitting around the band stand. In between sets students were able to sample the delights of the food halls and, livestock shows, eventing and military drill demonstrations to name but a few.

The winners of the first **House Science Fair** were Imogen McMurray, Aaron Sloan, Sophie Pointon, Rowan Headley Rudd and Eloise Forsyth of Hutton House whose project on microorganisms around school earned 250 house points.

The young engineers who have been working on the **Engineering Education Scheme** have been excellent ambassadors once again. They received wonderful feedback from the company that they were working with. This is what John Donnelly, senior design engineer for Siemens Rail Automation, wrote about the students which perhaps summarises the qualities that typify RGS students. He said 'You should be very proud of your efforts and the way you conducted yourselves. To be honest, the prospect of presenting a project to a panel of four industry hardened engineers and managers is something that terrifies me even now at the tender age of 45, but you chaps confidently and clearly summarised your project aims and how you went about solving the issues with understanding of the engineering involved, calmness and not a hint of nerves. You each played your part and more than any other team I observed that day, you all appeared to take responsibility for your individual role and deliver to the best of your ability. I thought that grit and determination were commodities that were in decline with younger engineers, thank you for correcting my misplaced perceptions and pushing on with your project despite the disappointment of having the residential event cancelled due to flooding at Lancaster University. I think we all acknowledge that time would have been the main opportunity to

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really develop your ideas, designs and presentation models. You took that set back on the chin and carried on as best you could with the resources available to you. Well done.'

I am also extremely grateful to Mrs Julia Whitham and her excellent team of parents who run an extraordinarily successful **Parents' Association**, who work tirelessly and willingly to help fund the school minibus, the projection unit in the hall, new hall curtains, sports equipment galore such as indoor hockey rails, new computer screen in the new classroom block which help so much. I hope that you were successful in the in the summer raffle!

I hope that you will be able to enjoy a break in the summer and I would like to thank you for all your support over the year. The summer will bring examinations results of course and I hope that students will be pleased with the outcome and that it will enable them to remain on course for their ambitions.

There is also a letting of the premises over the summer to generate additional income and the **World Challenge** group have left for Malaysia and Borneo. I hope that they have an enjoyable and fulfilling trip.

The calendar for the coming year is on the website and for your information some key dates appear below. I look forward to seeing students back on **6 September**.

Yours sincerely

M L Pearman
Headmaster

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday, 5 September	School closed for staff training	
Tuesday, 6 September	School opens for Autumn 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	/ contd ...

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Friday, 23 September
Friday, 30 September
Tuesday, 11 October
Tuesday, 11 October
Thurs – Sun, 13-16 Oct
Saturday, 15 October
w/c 17 October
Friday, 21 October
Monday, 31 October

First form tea for new parents 4.15pm
Lower Sixth form tea 4.15pm
Form tutor boarding tea 4 – 5pm
Autumn Concert
Art trip to Cornwall
Parents' Association Comedy Night
Charity Week
School closes at 3.55pm for half term
School opens at 8.45am

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