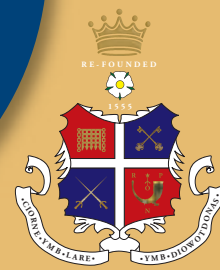


# RGS news

Issue 32 Summer 2012



**RGS Olympic  
torch bearer**

**RE trip to London**

**Farewell to  
members of staff**



Photograph: London, by Emma Beaumont, 3B



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# WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER

## Dear Parents,

Welcome to the summer edition of the RGS News 2012. It has been a very busy and successful year with a significant amount of progress being made. The school is delighted to be graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and is very much looking forward to examination results in August, as well as to the challenges of a new academic year.

I am delighted that the music block is near completion and will hopefully be available for the beginning of the autumn term. The deadline for completion is late August. As I write, the building looks complete externally and the remaining works involve internal fixtures and fittings. There is no doubt that it will be an excellent addition to the teaching facilities at RGS.

Mrs Hutt was commissioned by the governors to undertake a feasibility study for a capital fundraising project for a new classroom block. This would tackle many of the problems associated with teaching in the remaining TCUs (temporary classroom units) which exist on the school site. I am delighted to inform you that the outcome from this study looks very encouraging and myself and the governors will be working on this project during the next eighteen months.



It is at this time that we say farewell to a number of staff who will be leaving. A valedictory for each member of staff can be found in this edition. Our best wishes go to all staff who will be leaving, whether it be retiring or moving on to a new post. Our best wishes in particular go to Mr Smith and to Miss Charlton who will be retiring from teaching after very long and loyal service to Ripon Grammar School. I have valued their significant contributions to the school during their time here.

There will be a number of new staff starting here in the autumn, notably Mr Fearnley who has been appointed as head of English and head of School House, Dr Linklater, who will be the new head of biology and Mr Chamberlain who will be taking over as head of modern foreign languages. We also welcome Mr Bruce, history, Miss Hargreaves, chemistry, Miss Nicholson, modern foreign languages, Miss Campbell, religious education and Dr Kern, chemistry to cover Mrs Caldwell's maternity leave. Our best wishes go to them all for a happy and successful career at RGS.

The second half of the summer term has been exceptionally busy and I know that many of the students are also looking forward to a rest after their hard work. As I write a number of trips involving staff and students are taking place including the world challenge trip to Vietnam and Cambodia, the water sports trip to France and the trip to the battlefields in Belgium. I hope the students enjoy the experience and my thanks to the staff for giving up their time to enable these opportunities to be enjoyed by the students.

My grateful thanks go to the editorial team for compiling this edition which I hope you will enjoy reading.

Best wishes to you all for a happy and hopefully sunny summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

M L Pearman (Headmaster)

## HOUSE SYSTEM

**Taking over the House System a little late in the academic year, I had my work cut out organising events. The first challenge was that of the House Master Chef competition, a renowned success and an event which many students have enjoyed in previous years. With the help of the House Captains, we were able to devise three strong teams to represent each house to compete in three separate heats.**

This year we were very lucky to have guest judges Mr Pearman and Miss Murray, who were very eager to help with tasting and very impressed with the cooking, but most of all team work evident throughout the year groups.

The upper-school Master Chef was the first heat with a mixture of dishes from tagliatelle and home-made pizza (including the bases) to melt-in-the-middle chocolate puddings which were Miss Murray's personal favourites. However, Hutton won by a mile with a delicious soup and hot crusty bread carefully cooked by Georgia Hudson and Juliet Fenlon.

Lower-school Master Chef was the second heat and each house succeeded expectations. However, once again, Hutton were the winners with an incredible seafood dish created by Jack Rose and Patrick Moon. Mr Stevens, Mr Wilson and I were overwhelmed with the dish they presented: salmon steak, tiger prawns, scallops, amalfi lemon asparagus and new potatoes followed by a dessert of chocolate brownie with cream accompanied with a blueberry and plum jus.

Sixth-form Master Chef was the final heat and they did not disappoint. School House produced a sun-dried tomato, smoked bacon and pea risotto with a trio of chocolate and mint desserts. De Grey's team made creamy salmon pasta and their own twist on Eton mess. Once again, Hutton took the first prize with a very ambitious cheese soufflé with lemon and garlic potatoes, Belgian and white chocolate pots with raspberry coulis and hand-made brandy-snap baskets, filled with lemon syllabub and shortbread to finish!

Needless to say, it appears we have some Gordon Ramsays and Delia Smiths residing in our school and I hope that there is just as much enthusiasm for future House System events.

*Miss Mann, Cover Supervisor, Head of House Competition*

## SCHOOL OFFICERS



**School officers for the academic year 2012-13 have now been appointed.**

**They are:**

**Head boy – Hugh McHale-Maughan**

**Head girl – Georgina Sanderson**

**Deputy head boys – Jack Lale and Stephen Laws**

**Deputy head girls – Siân Avery, Hannah Hickingbotham and Elizabeth Tearle**

We have also appointed school prefects to assist our school officers. These students take on the position of being a particular role model for all students in the school and we expect them to meet the highest standards in terms of behaviour, work ethic and appearance. School officers and school prefects are also expected to show their commitment to the school by being prepared to attend school functions such as open evenings, and to provide support when situations arise where additional help is needed. We hope that all those appointed will enjoy their roles and we thank them for their commitment to the school and its ethos.

# STAFF LEAVERS 2012



## Mr Still

Alex "Sandy" Still joined the school two years ago in a part-time capacity to teach German, before going on to teach both French and German this year. Alex has brought a wealth of experience,

skill and good sense to the modern languages department and his pupils always say how much they enjoy his teaching style. He has worked in a number of schools over the years and is a former head of department. He has done a particularly good job enthusing our third-year pupils during their introductory German course and his lessons include a wide range of linguistic, cultural and, especially, musical activities. Alex has an easy-going, caring and very collegiate approach which has been appreciated by fellow staff and pupils alike. He is going on to work at Barnard Castle School, which is much closer to his home. We know he is leaving us reluctantly and we wish him the very best for the future.

Mr Smith



## Dr Caldwell

After initially leaving Ripon Grammar School last year Dr Caldwell kindly stepped in at the last minute to take the post of Head of Boys' Boarding.

Supported by Mrs Caldwell, Dr Caldwell has brought a high level of care to the boys and created a fun and enjoyable atmosphere. Dr Caldwell's passion for School House and the welfare of its boys has shone through this year and he will be remembered fondly. We wish Dr Caldwell all the best as he continues in teaching in Harrogate and send both him and Mrs Caldwell many congratulations on the birth of their baby boy, Daniel.

Mr Margerison



## Mrs Watson

Since joining us in September Mrs Watson has had a fantastic impact on the department. Mrs Watson's great enthusiasm for the subject has helped to bring topics to life. Mrs Watson's first

form students' castles would surely put even the Normans to shame. It is with sadness and yet joy that we lament her departure and wish her well in her new role as teacher of history at Fulneck School in Leeds.

Mr Spiers



## Miss Sánchez

This year, Rebeca Sánchez has been the Spanish Language Assistant, working with all students studying the subject from the third form to the lower-sixth form. Rebeca came to the

UK, having just finished high school in Mexico City, in order to experience a different culture and lifestyle. Throughout the year, she has helped all students taking Spanish to improve their spoken and written skills, even starting a beginners' Spanish class for upper-sixth form students in preparation for university. Additionally, she has assisted in the boarding house and on various school trips, and has developed an excellent bond with many pupils in the school. She has been a great asset to the modern languages department this year and the staff and pupils alike have greatly appreciated both her enthusiasm and the contribution she has made. In the future, Rebeca is going to study hotel management at university in Mexico City and hopes to work in the hospitality industry afterwards. She will be sorely missed by all staff and pupils and we wish her well in her future endeavours.

Mr Thomas-Peter



## Mr Smith

Mr Smith joined the school as Head of Modern Languages from Hampton School, Richmond, in 1988. Thousands of students have been inspired by his wonderful teaching, his expertise

and his excellent subject knowledge and countless youngsters have benefited from his calm, encouraging and caring approach as an upper-school form tutor. During his time here he has set up and run a hugely successful and memorable annual trip to Normandy for second-year students, as well as establishing a popular, rewarding and valuable French exchange programme with the Institution Saint-Louis in Pont L'Abbé. In addition, he has always taken an active role in charity-week activities, notably as a drummer in the staff band, as well as giving performances in the pantomime. He also helped the sports department by coaching the rugby and cricket teams.

Mr Smith's professionalism, his sense of humour and his company will all be greatly missed by staff and students alike and we would like to thank him for his loyalty and outstanding contribution over the last twenty-four years. We know that he will keep very busy in the future, with his diverse hobbies and with maintaining his brilliant Frenchteacher.net website. We would like to wish him a long, healthy and happy retirement.

The Modern Languages Department



## Mr Knight

Mr Knight joined the school in September 2011. It was clear very quickly that he has immense experience and knowledge and could readily turn his hand to teaching any area of the science

curriculum. He has made many useful contributions to the development of the sciences at the school and staff and students have been fortunate to benefit from his experience this year. Colleagues have enjoyed his sense of humour and have enjoyed working with him. Mr Knight is moving to a promoted post as Head of Chemistry at Bedford School and we wish him the very best as he moves to this exciting new position.

Dr R Grime



## Mr Hudson

Pupils, parents and staff will be sad to bid farewell to Mr Hudson, who joined the school in September 2009. He is returning to his spiritual home in Cheshire, having gained promotion to the

post of Assistant Head of Religious Studies at Lymm High School. Mr Hudson has been a popular and committed teacher, dedicated to the well-being of all his pupils. He has been fully involved in the extra curricular life of the school in many ways, including girls' football and the World Challenge expedition to Namibia. We wish him every success and happiness in his new school.

Mr J Clarke



## Mrs Sharman

Miss Wildman joined us two years ago. During the course of that relatively short period many changes have taken place. She married and became Mrs Sharman, she took over as Head of English following the retirement

of Mr Lewicki and now she is leaving Ripon Grammar School to take up the post of Head of Faculty of English, Classics and Drama at Dr Challoner's High School for Girls, Amersham.

Both the department and Ripon Grammar School students have benefited from Mrs Sharman's thorough knowledge of her subject and highly

professional approach. She has been active in encouraging our students' interest in literature through the instigation of the popular cross-curricular 'Reading Week' and has organised many successful theatre trips and study days.

We thank her for the contribution she has made to the department and wish her well as she heads south to take up her new and exciting role. We will miss her.

Mrs Wright



## Mr Heimann

Steffen has been our German GAP student this year. He has made himself very much at home around school and in German lessons since he arrived here last September, and has been a very

welcome and valued addition to the German department.

He is nineteen years old and hails from Kiel in northern Germany. He is a keen sportsman, with a strong interest in handball, and it has been very interesting hearing Steffen explain the game in lessons, and tell us all about his sporting exploits.

Beginners' classes in the third form have enjoyed having Steffen in lessons very much. His cheerful manner and helpful nature have made him very much a part of the proceedings, and Mr Still has been very grateful for his contributions to oral practice and for the illustrated talks he has given. Elsewhere, the help he has given Mrs Lofthouse with conversation practice with the fifth form and the sixth form has been invaluable. Everyone he has come into contact with here has been impressed by his easy-going manner and quiet sense of humour.

He has taken the opportunity to travel quite widely this year, visiting Harrogate, Leeds, York, London and Oxford, sometimes with school parties and at other times at weekends under his own steam. He is no stranger to travelling, having already spent time with a host family in the United States and it is there that he intends to return when his time here comes to an end. We will have very fond memories of him, and would like to take the opportunity to thank him for everything he has done this year, and to wish him every success in the future.

Mr A Still



## Miss Charlton

Miss Charlton joined the school in September 1982 and will bring thirty years of dedicated service to an end with her retirement this summer. This is a remarkable period of service, made all the more so by her time in Johnson

House, where Miss Charlton worked from 1982 and as Senior Housemistress from 1987 to 2003. Many former students talk of their great appreciation for the care and support Miss Charlton provided during their years living and growing up in Johnson House. Miss Charlton has proved over the years, to those of us who have been privileged to work with her, that she is an immensely knowledgeable biologist, gardener and birdwatcher and many of us have learned much from her about these fields. She is one of the most dedicated, hard-working and organised teachers we have ever met, always expecting high standards from colleagues and students. She is always prepared to go the extra mile to support students in need, whether in or out of the classroom. During the last year, she has shown her dedication by taking on much additional work as interim Head of Biology. Miss Charlton will be a loss to the teaching profession. She will be greatly missed by colleagues who have utmost respect for her experience and wisdom, as well as being a pleasure to work with. Biology, science and the school as a whole will not be the same without her. We wish her all the best for her future travels and challenges as part of a very long and happy retirement.

Dr R Grime and Mr K Miller



# Parents' Association

## NEWS FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The summer term has been a busy one for the Parents' Association, and I would like to start by thanking all the committee for their help, dedication and enthusiasm during this academic year.

We started the summer term with a Comedy Night at Bishop Monkton Village Hall, which was a sell-out; we all enjoyed the two acts by Iszi Lawrence and the Scottish Falsetto Sock Puppets, plus a curry and bar. The evening raised £1,583 for RGSPA funds.

We have had two very successful cake stalls in the market-place; one in May and one in June. Thanks to all parents who baked and bought cakes. We raised £338 from the sale of cakes and £365 in raffle-ticket sales over the two days, despite awful weather on both occasions!

The Olympic cake competition entries at the stall on 16th June were particularly impressive and the Mayor had a difficult job picking the winners. The first prize in the 15 years and under category (exclusive use of the RGS swimming pool for one hour for up to 20 people) went to Hallam Brammah aged 10 years. Second prize went to Roscoe and Albert Savage, aged 13 and 9 years. The first prize in the 16 years to adult category went to Ruth Campbell, with second prize going to Ruth Terry. There was also a Parents' Association Olympic Spirit stall in the market-place on the Olympic Torch Day, 19th June. Fortunately none of our helpers were trampled in the rush and excitement!

The main summer term event for us has, of course, been the summer Olympic Spirit Raffle. At the time of writing, this has already brought in £1500, with more still to come. The prizes this year are fantastic, and huge thanks go to Ruth Campbell, a member of the RGSPA committee, for her tireless organisation, as well as to all parents for buying and selling so many tickets. Also special thanks to Fat Face of Ripon for selling tickets, to Jack Laughner and his family for donating T-shirts and for promoting the raffle, and to all the local people and businesses who so kindly donated prizes both for the raffle and for the silent auction.

We have used our profits this term in a variety of ways, including covering the running costs of the school minibus, which come to over £4,000 for the year. Mr Thompson has also purchased six sets of tents, stoves and fuel bottles for Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions with a donation of £1000 from RGSPA. We also donated an amount towards a chair for the library which has been purchased in memory of RGS pupil Megan Bell-Walker, who sadly died

last December. The Parents' Association is also hoping to organise an oak bench for the school grounds, in recognition of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year.

Just a few reminders: -

If you are not already a member of our 200 Club, please look on the school website (under Parents' Association) for details of how to join.

Also, please consider 'Easy fundraising' when you next shop online. Simply log on to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rgspa](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rgspa) and when you order your goods, a small percentage will go to the Parents' Association at no extra cost to you. If we were all to shop online in this way, we could painlessly raise hundreds of pounds every year for school.

At this time of year, you may be thinking of clearing out outgrown school uniform, or buying more, so please remember to donate your old (good condition) school uniform items to the charity shop Scope, in Ripon. If you are looking to buy a particular item from them, do remember to ask them, as they do not have room to keep everything for sale always on display.

And finally, some important dates in the next academic year for your diary:

**Monday September 10th 2012** (7 pm at school) – Our next Parents' Association meeting to plan the new term's events. Please feel free to come and join us to try us out - we are a friendly bunch!

**Friday October 5th 2012** – Cheese & wine and quiz evening for new first-year parents.

**Monday October 8th 2012** (7 pm at school) – Parents' Association AGM. Again, new members are very welcome.

**Saturday October 20th 2012** – Murder Mystery evening at RGS.

**Saturday November 17th 2012** – Parents' Association Christmas Fair at RGS.

Thank you to all parents who have supported us over the last year, by attending or helping at events, or by buying raffle tickets. Without you, we could not have done it! Have a great summer, and the Parents' Association Committee look forward to seeing you at some more of our events next year.

*Jane Robinson, Chair, RGSPA*

## VISIT TO GREECE

The recent Ermysted's/RGS trip to Greece, spanning a full six days in the country and involving participants from two schools and four year groups, was an undeniable success.

Five Ripon Grammar School students, including myself, together with a large number of students from Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton set out on an archaeological and factual, adventure-packed week exploring the main cities in Greece. We visited Athens, viewing the ancient Acropolis and visiting its well-stocked museum, Delphi, seeing where the ancient and mysterious Delphic Oracle would have once sat, Tolon, testing the courses of the ancient Olympic games, and we toured around the ancient classical 'City of gold', Mycenae, once supposedly inhabited by Agamemnon.

Our nights were full of new adventures, tastes and happenings. Whilst in Delphi we celebrated one member of the group's birthday in a little local Greek restaurant and tasted the cuisine and joined in with some Greek dancing. We also tested the acoustics in the surprisingly well-preserved theatre in Epidauros, visited a disco, acted out scenes from the ancient Greek tragedy 'Agamemnon' by Aeschylus and some of the group even composed a song, adapting the song 'Waterloo' to incorporate the things we had visited on our trip.

The final morning will remain in each of our memories, replaying the best moments of our trip whilst standing on the beach a few metres from the door to our final hotel, and watching the sunrise over the sea. The friends and the memories will be kept for ever and that final sunrise is engrained in each of our minds.

The trip was packed with classical sites and museums, views and new hotels. It was an interesting and beautiful whistle-stop tour of the important monuments and places that we study in GCSE, AS and A2 level Classical Civilisation, and the background knowledge and understanding of true scales that we gained from seeing and being in the actual places are invaluable.



*Eleanor James, L6B*



# OLD RIPONIANS' ASSOCIATION

President:  
Mrs Jenny Bellamy  
Secretary:  
Mr Euan Raffel  
Treasurer:  
Mr George Oworm

## HELEN MACKENZIE - OLYMPIC TORCH BEARER

**Last summer I was contacted by several friends, students and colleagues all wanting my details, address and contact number. I couldn't fathom out why. I later learned that they were going through the process of nominating me to carry the Olympic Torch. On December 8th I received an email saying that I had been successful. Immediately I found out, the local radio station rang to find out all about it. This was the start of my fifteen minutes of fame!**

The thing is, I DO have a story to tell and it's important to get it out there so people talk about it. I have had cancer. (I like writing that in the past tense!) Now, this wasn't specifically the reason for my nomination, and nor does it define me, but the fact is that through my recovery I am able to offer hope to people in the same position. The media interest in my story meant that a lot more people became aware of cancer, its treatment and the need to find a cure, and that can only be a good thing.

It was eventually announced that I would be running with the torch in Harrogate. I was thrilled to be a torch bearer, really proud, humbled, touched, but I was devastated not to be carrying it through my beloved Ripon.

On the day I donned my tracksuit and could barely contain my excitement. As I was dropped off at my post, that was when I truly felt the magic. Thousands of people cheered as I jumped off the bus carrying my torch. And then, there in the crowd I saw them, running towards me, a banner waving saying "That's our mum" - my children, Laura and Amy. As the incoming runner approached with the lit torch I was so excited. Here it was - months and months of planning and now I was doing it. The torches kissed and I glanced skywards, knowing my dad was there somewhere watching his little girl.

And then we were off. I spotted people I knew in the crowd. Students on study leave had come through to see me, some of my netball club attend Harrogate schools and were there lining the street, all waving banners shouting my name. I was euphoric, waving at the crowd, my children running alongside and all too soon the next torchbearer came into view and it was their moment to shine. Our torches kissed, we hugged and I was ushered back on to the shuttle bus where my fellow torchbearers who had been before me whooped and cheered. It was magical.

And it was then that I realised that had I run in Ripon I would've been whisked off to the collection point and would've known none of this. I truly had had the best of both worlds.

I am proud to have been a torch bearer and immensely proud to have carried the torch for Ripon (albeit in Harrogate!)

I owe Adam Thompson an enormous debt of gratitude for making this whole thing possible with his successful nomination. My moment to shine will last a lifetime.



## OLD RIPS NEWS

Faces of Yorkshire - Sam Potts's exhibition of paintings of people linked with Yorkshire including Old Rips Bruce Oldfield, Norman Barrett and Peter Squires will be in Victor J's Art Bar, 1A Finkle Street, York YO1 8RW between August 1st and 31st. On 10 August there will be a celebrity evening with Dickie Bird.

## OLD RIPS' CHRISTMAS REUNION AND AGM- DECEMBER 15TH 2012

The AGM will begin at 12 noon in the Library. In the afternoon, there will be games, including hockey, netball and soccer, and tea will be provided for all in the School Hall. All former students, friends and family are welcome.



# SPORTS NEWS

## HOCKEY

As the hockey season drew to a close it was very satisfying to reflect on the success of Ripon Grammar School's hockey teams. The 2011-12 season has probably been one of the most successful on record and each team should be very proud of its achievements. The acquisition of a newly laid Astro turf pitch has certainly contributed to the success of our teams; no longer were practices subject to the weather and pitch conditions – the old grass pitch has certainly not been missed! Being able to practise on a pitch fit for purpose has had a major impact, not only on the success of the teams but on the enjoyment of all the players.

The season began with the National Tournaments in the autumn term. The U16 team won their area tournament and this was quickly followed by the U14 team finishing as runners up in the first round of their competition. The teams continued to practise and play competitive matches in readiness for the spring tournaments. This hard work was well rewarded as the RGS teams almost made a clean sweep of the spring area tournaments. The U15, U14 and U13 teams all won their tournaments while the U13s finished as respectable runners up in their competition. RGS also enjoyed success in an inaugural U14 mixed 7 a-side tournament. Fifteen teams from across Yorkshire enjoyed some first rate hockey and after an exceptional team performance RGS were deserved winners of the U14 Yorkshire Mixed Cup.

Commitment, sportsmanship and great teamwork have been the hallmark of our teams this year and the girls have certainly enjoyed playing and competing. Let's hope the 2012-13 season brings just as much success and enjoyment. Well done to all the players!

*Miss Gilfillan*



from left top row - Daniel Lawson, Holly Oldham, Kate Grime, Emily Peirson, Alfie Ashton  
from left bottom row - Tom Chappell, Anna Durkin, Alexandra Elvidge, Matthew Pimley

## JACK LAUGHER



With the Olympics only days away everyone throughout the country is full of excitement, and with Jack Laugher's recent result at the GB Olympic Trials it will be an even more thrilling event for Ripon Grammar School. Jack competed excellently and took the gold medal in the trials with a fantastic score of 469.60 in his final. His place in the Olympic squad wasn't secured by this result but it made him ever more confident; a few days later it was announced that Jack had made the Olympic squad. He will be competing in

the men's 3m event. We wish him the best of luck and look forward to watching his event.

*Hannah Hickingbotham, L6C*

## BADMINTON

Since the construction of the Sports Hall in 2009, badminton has grown to become an integral part of the school's sporting curriculum. Both lower and upper schools are able to pursue the game within their timetabled games lessons, with the standard ranging from fun knockabouts to the fiercely fought match. This has inspired many students of all ages to take up the sport outside of lesson time. Mr Willis has been fantastic at making himself available during lunchtimes to oversee games and provide coaching, and it is pleasing to see the high level of interest, particularly from the younger students. These sessions are fantastic opportunities to develop a sense of community, with the sixth formers often helping the younger years to develop their ability. Mr Willis has also organised several matches for the school, with the highlight being a convincing victory for the under 16 girls in a tournament at York. Obviously, Matt Clare, who competes at international level, is a real inspiration to the rest of the school, as are the county players Zara and Matt Cotton. Badminton is certainly very 'in' at RGS.



*Hugh McHale-Maughan, L6F*

## CRICKET— IT'S NOT JUST FOR BOYS

**For girls, the thought of playing a 'boys' sport can be off-putting or intimidating. Cricket, unfortunately, is one of these sports, in spite of its non contact nature which makes it ideal for mixed participation. Although participation amongst girls is increasing, disappointingly there are still many more boys than girls in many of our local clubs.**

However, at RGS there are some very encouraging signs that there may be growing enthusiasm for the game amongst girls. A number of promising young players have successfully dispelled the "girls can't play cricket" myth and now play representative age-group cricket. Certainly, this is an impressive feat for some girls who have been playing the game for little over a year. These girls include Georgie Taylor, Nicola Terry, Lucy Wicks and Donna Castle-Ward who have all represented their age group teams for North Yorkshire in the past year. As well as this, Lucy Kettlewell has this season been selected, and played, for the Yorkshire Girls' under 13s team.

As someone who has played both mixed and girls' cricket for eight years, I have experienced first hand the challenges faced by girls who want to get involved in the game. To play amongst boys is tough at first, but after the initial toil, the benefits are very worthwhile. Through county cricket, I have made friends from all over the country and on top of that, once you've got a boy out – you've got one up on them for life!

*Jess Watson, L6F*

# GREENPOWER ELECTRIC CAR COMPETITION

## Elvington testing and training day - 16th May

The day after the fifth year began their study leave the RGS Greenpower team enjoyed an extremely productive day at Elvington airfield. The event was organised by Greenpower to allow teams from the north of England to test and modify their electric cars before the racing season begins and to train inexperienced drivers. For many years now we have trained our new drivers on the simple and easy to control Electric Chair before moving them up to the much faster Carbon Comet with its unorthodox joy-stick steering and gears. However, with the quiet and spacious Elvington track providing ideal conditions for training, even the least experienced members of the RGS Greenpower Club were able to put in several laps in each of our cars during the day. It was also a good opportunity to meet students and teachers from other schools and scrutinise their designs. Although it was not intended that the track sessions be "races" there was certainly a competitive feeling between some teams. We were delighted to post the fastest lap of the day measured by Greenpower's electronic timing gear.

## Has the Stig's identity finally been revealed?

This racing season will sadly mark the end of Jonathan Owens' seven year involvement with the Greenpower Club. Jonny joined the club at the start of his first year at RGS and has made huge contributions to the design and maintenance of our electric cars. He has led several teams of young drivers to victory and has travelled thousands of miles around the country to attend races over the years. He has also ably managed the Greenpower Juniors Club and overseen the construction of our new car. Jonathan is currently seeking a career in the air-force and we would like to wish him every success with that. Although Jonny is a quiet person by nature, he becomes a different person when behind the wheel of a racing car. Some say that Jonathan Owens is unable to speak and that you never see him and Top Gear's Stig together. All we can say is..... thanks for all your help Jonny!



*An anonymous but strangely familiar driver testing the Carbon Comet at Elvington Airfield*

## Greenpower North East Heat – Croft Motor Circuit,

By the time you read this we will have attended the Greenpower North East Heat at Croft Racing Circuit (July 4th). Last year the Carbon Comet performed well, winning the event by half a lap. We hope to repeat that performance again this year and secure a position at the national final at Goodwood on 14th October.

*Mr S Mann*

# SOAP-BOX DERBY – JUBILEE DAY 4th JUNE 2012



*The RGS team with their soap-box design "Lunch-Box" constructed from recycled school dining tables*

**On Jubilee Day school teams gathered from around the Ripon area for the first soap-box derby around a course lined with straw bales in the market place. The event was the idea of ex-councillor John Richmond and was organised by Sarah Addison of the Ripon and Rural Learning Partnership.**

The RGS team consisted of Tom Carr, William Langford, Oliver Bowett and Richard Castle-Ward, all from the first year. The boys had put in a massive effort during lunchtimes and after-school sessions to design and build the car, only putting the finishing touches to it on the final day of the half-term. It was constructed extensively from recycled components. The steel tubing and wooden bodywork were from the old school dining tables and the wheels came out of a skip! The team's design incorporated several safety features including guards between the driver and wheels, footrests with grip-tape and an effective braking system.

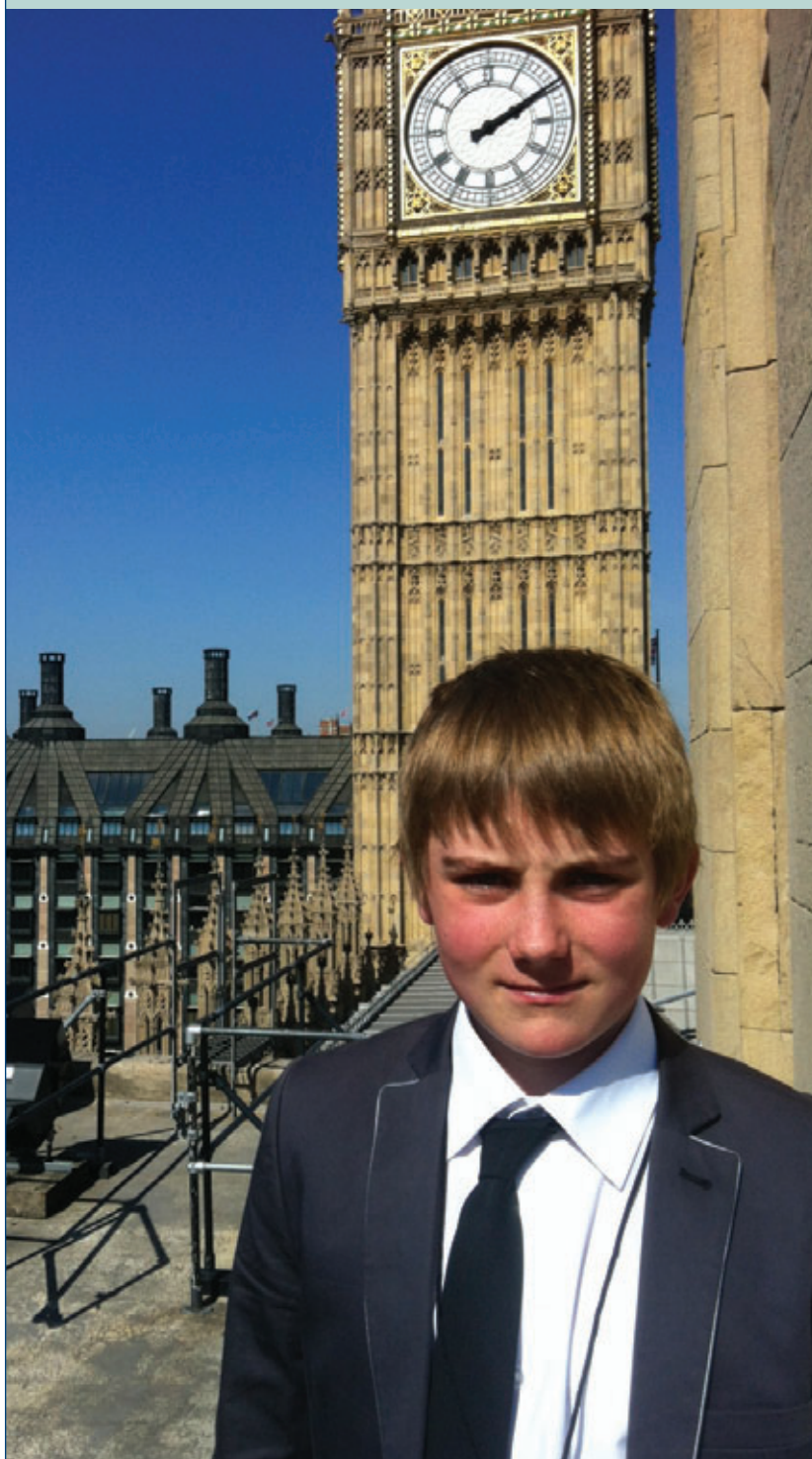
The race started very well for us with our team quickly getting ahead of Outwood Academy, thanks to some enthusiastic pushing from Oliver. By the end of the first lap we had pulled out an impressive lead. However, we experienced a few control issues during the second lap of the market place which allowed Outwood Academy to overtake us and take the victory – a shame but that's racing! Highlights of the event were featured on BBC Look North that evening.

The event was well organised and there were no major accidents. It was such good fun that we hope there will be the opportunity for another soap-box derby sometime. Many thanks to all the parents who supported the team on Jubilee Day.

*Mr S Mann*



# WORK EXPERIENCE



During the week before Easter the fourth year were given a great opportunity to experience the world of work during the work-experience week. There were many interesting placements and everyone was excited about the chances they would have. The opportunities included RAF Leeming, various primary schools and even the Eden Project, with a great variety of trades and professions chosen.

As my uncle, Nigel Adams, is the MP for the Selby and Ainsty constituency I was lucky enough to be able to work with him, and after filling in several forms and finding out many pieces of information regarding the week, with unwavering support from Mrs Southwell, my granddad and I were on the train to London prepared for the time ahead.

When we arrived in London I was immediately struck by the magnificence of the Houses of Parliament. I spent the first evening on the Terrace overlooking the Thames, having a drink with my uncle, the editor of the Yorkshire Post, the creator of DFS and a couple of other MPs before walking back to my uncle's flat nearby. I certainly didn't expect such esteemed company on my first day at work!

Throughout the week I did a lot of important work, mainly regarding e-mails and letters received from constituents with problems and it was very interesting to learn about the public's views on politics and local situations. The office work was demanding but it was rewarding to see the grateful replies from the people when their issues had been dealt with. I even had the opportunity to visit the two houses: the House of Commons and the House of Lords. In the House of Commons, the Members of Parliament discussed a huge variety of subjects from assisted suicide to planning permission on houses which was all very interesting. It was amazing to see how much what happened there was picked up by the media and everything discussed could be found in a newspaper the next day.

I had many other great experiences in the week, for example going onto the roof of Parliament with my uncle and granddad, giving us views across London, and an enthralling trip to the Foreign Office. It was brilliant and by the time I returned home I had plenty of stories to share with my family. Work experience is a fantastic chance and should not be taken lightly. I would advise all lower-school students to spend a lot of time planning their week so as to gain as much benefit as I did!

**Nick Edwards, 4B**

## ENGINEERING GOLD CREST AWARD

In October last year Stephen Laws, Cameron McCormack, Daniel Hasson and Rowan Swiers visited Leeds Grammar School to start a six-month engineering project with the Engineering Education Scheme. The project started with an introduction by Simon Carrington, a professional engineer who mentored the team throughout the project. The project was based on a real scheme to design and test a prototype device which would be capable of dating objects based on their molecular vibrations – not an easy task!

After many meetings with Simon Carrington, the team completed a three day course at Huddersfield University. At the university, they were able to use specialised equipment, including a 3D printer and spectrum analyser,

to develop their prototype, giving them a taste of engineering at degree level. Having successfully designed, constructed and tested the prototype, the team then had to produce an engineering report on the experience, and give a fifteen-minute presentation to a board of engineers. Once the project had been completed, each team member was awarded a gold CREST award for their hard work. Through the experience of the Engineering Education Scheme, the students were able to develop their team skills and leadership qualities, as well as extending their knowledge of engineering projects, which will help pave the way for the team in their future endeavours.

**Pip Bell, L6C**



# BOARDING

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BOARDER

The Boarding Houses have long been a crucial part of Ripon Grammar School. The boarding community is one of trust and companionship and I know that I, along with my fellow boarders, would consider myself lucky to be part of the tight-knit, friendly community that is Ripon Grammar School. For those who are interested in what goes on behind the doors of School and Johnson houses, here is, more or less, a day in the life of a boarder...

- 8:00 am** Breakfast - everyone comes down, bleary eyed, and we say grace before eating and running up to school. Sixth formers may return during their free periods to do home-work.
- 3:55 pm** Everyone returns to the boarding houses to demolish the spread of biscuits, tea and flapjack after a hard day at school - diets can start tomorrow! For the next two hours we have free time: we can go into town, work, or go to the school clubs. However, on this particular night we have the boarders' Jubilee barbeque. The night begins with an obvious division between boys and girls until Dr Caldwell organises joint activities such as tug of war and three-legged races with, to the first years' sheer horror, boys and girls partnered together!
- 6:00 pm** On a normal night we would have dinner at 6pm, when we race for first place in the queue. The meals range from spaghetti bolognaise to fresh salmon and fish cakes with a variety of delicious desserts - a boarding house favourite being a seemingly unlimited pile of pancakes!
- 6:30 pm** Sadly, the fun has to end at some point, as we have to commence an hour and a half of 'prep', during which time first, second and third years have to work on their homework in the prep room. Luckily, the night still hasn't ended and at 8pm, after a reopening of the kitchen for dinner leftovers - or coffee for the sixth formers, who need to refuel to get through revision - activities commence. These can range from swimming to jewellery making. Often the sixth formers join in, frequently making the first years laugh before they have to go to bed at around 9pm.
- 9:15 pm** Once the younger students have gone to bed, the sixth formers may watch a film together from the wide selection available. Or, sometimes, we might go into Mrs Smith's room for a 'chat about life' - which mainly consists of us kicking back on the sofas and complaining about the problems of our 'incredibly stressful lives' to an incredibly patient and smiling Mrs Smith. Similarly, the first years know that if it all gets too much they can talk to anyone: Mrs Smith, Miss Hoskins or their assigned 'buddy', and will be met with help, advice or just someone to talk to!

So, that is a little window into the life of the boarders at RGS. I am glad that I have been given the chance to be a part of the incredible community that is the boarding house. I am extremely thankful of the relationships I have made here and it will be a part of my life that I will never forget!

*Francesca Baldwin, L6D*

## BOARDERS' JUBILEE PARTIES

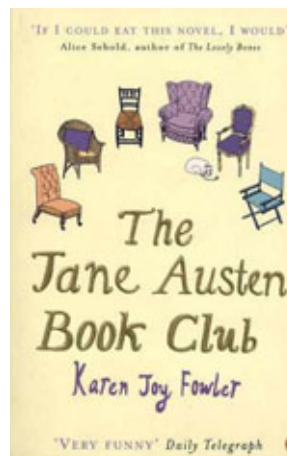
This year, as it is the Queen's 60th Jubilee, both the boys and girls boarding houses decided to have a barbeque, with great British games to play as well. It was really fun, as the sun was shining and everyone contributed, with the girl boarders making amazing British buns and cakes and the boy boarders thinking of some great games. These included a tug of war (which, by the way, the girls won!) It was a nice chance to interact with each other and have loads of fun. We had the best time ever!

*Rachael Pond, 2C*

For the boarders' Jubilee celebrations, both houses came to Johnson House to have a barbeque. Johnson House was fully decorated to its full Union Jack potential. When we had all enjoyed our meal, we went outside to play some games. These included a piggy-back race, a three-legged race and a team sack race, but I think everyone enjoyed the tug of war most since the students beat the staff! It was a really fun night.

*Lauren Pybus, 2C*

# BOOK CLUB



In September Mrs Dring created a lower-sixth form book club, where members could indulge their interest in novels by experiencing new genres. It is also an opportunity to compare a novel with its film adaptation and see the difference between the text and the screen. This was most obvious with the novel *The Jane Austen Book Club* by Joy Fowler. The film adaptation is very different to the novel, but still encapsulates the same ideas that Fowler was portraying.

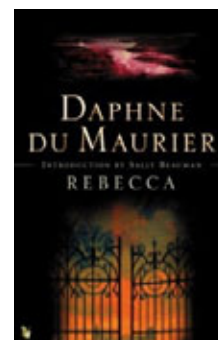
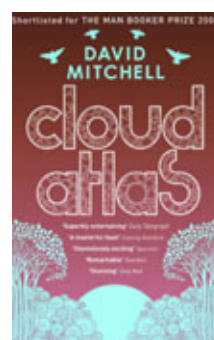
As a group we have also read: *One Day* by David Nicholls, *Cloud Atlas* by David Mitchell, and *Rebecca* by Daphne du

Maurier. Each one is very different but still an incredible piece of literature in its own right. *Cloud Atlas*, for example, presents us with a variety of worlds from the 1800s to a post apocalyptic setting. *One Day* and *The Jane Austen Book Club* on the other hand are 'chick lit'.

We concluded the Easter term with a trip out for dinner, accompanied by the novel *Rebecca*. This was also a chance for us to discuss the forthcoming 'World Book Night', which is a huge celebration of books where selected titles are given out freely in book shops and libraries across the country. Overall, it is a very important event, and *Rebecca* was one of this year's titles.

The Book Club, therefore, is a chance to meet a wide range of new people and discuss something which is important to us, as well as enabling us to experience something new and interesting.

*Emily Bowes, L6B*



# DEBATING SOCIETY

The Debating Society continues to move from strength to strength as we look forward to a new year of fresh opportunities. For many years Ripon Grammar School has had a debating society that has provided a unique opportunity for students to develop skills and discuss topical issues. Through the efforts of several committed students and staff, most notably Mr Spiers, the society has been able to meet both more often and tackle ever more challenging issues. This year debates on a range of topics have sparked new interests and lead many students to reconsider their possible career paths. The future for free market capitalism, nuclear power and press regulation have all been on the packed agenda.

Next year we hope to build on this new-found progress. A number of competitions have already been entered and we hope to offer the opportunity for students throughout the school to debate issues outwith lessons. Several new members of staff have already expressed a keen interest in getting involved; hopefully, this will make it possible for the debating society to continue to expand. Early next term we will welcome parents, governors and all members of the school community to a series of public debates and we hope to welcome as many interested people as possible. Well done to all involved for the progress made this year and we hope to see it continue.

*Ben Nabarro, L6E*



# CERN TRIP



**After a much too early start for a group of teenage students, we congregated at a coffee shop at Leeds Bradford airport, where Mr Griggs and Miss Green were waiting.**

Once in Geneva, and feeling slightly more awake, we hopped on our coach and began the drive into the city, where we were greeted with stunning views of the Swiss Alps in the background and the equally beautiful architecture of Geneva around us; a promising start for what was to come.

We spent Thursday afternoon exploring the sights and shops Geneva had to offer, including the famous Jet d'Eau - a huge fountain reaching 140 metres high - as well as countless designer shops and supercars on every corner! After a thought provoking introductory talk from a CERN veteran, we

were taken on a tour of the facilities. Our first stop was at the materials laboratory, where components of the Large Hadron Collider were tested at temperatures of  $-270^{\circ}\text{C}$ . We then moved on to the site of one of the main LHCs, the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS). We descended 100 m beneath France in an elevator, and were taken on a tour through the masses of equipment and computing systems required to run the detector.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable trip, and despite delayed flights and aborted take-offs, we arrived safely back in the UK. Our greatest thanks go to the physics department for organising such an amazing weekend.

*Pip Bell, L6C*



# EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ) TRIP TO THE BRITISH LIBRARY

Over two Fridays towards the end of term, three groups of lower-sixth students travelled to Boston Spa to visit the British Library. The students, who are all undertaking the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), used the extensive library resources to undertake an initial exploration of their subjects. The trip encouraged students to take advantage of the British Library, whether now in Boston Spa, or indeed perhaps in London throughout higher education programmes in the future. Enthusiasm amongst the year group for independent study is particularly high this year, with diverse topics being explored, from the medical consideration of diabetes or placebos to an exploration of Old English as a language.

Students are supported by the guidance of a mentor in school as well as a further trip to York University with the aim of instructing students in research skills and essay writing. Each project consists of a five-thousand word essay focused on a self-set question and concludes with the presentation of the research results to a small group. An EPQ is equivalent in value to half an A-level, but more importantly it demonstrates self-motivation and enthusiasm for subjects; qualities which many students hope will give them an edge in the ever-competitive university application process next term and an improved sense of self-discipline that will not easily be lost.

*Sian Avery, L6C*

## LOWER-SIXTH FORM CHEMISTRY TRIP

On the afternoons of 13th and 20th June, lower-sixth form chemistry students visited the chemistry department at Leeds University to participate in a spectroscopy and analysis workshop. The workshop proved to be exceedingly informative and was a brilliant way of introducing some of the key analytical techniques underlying spectroscopy that form a major part of the structure determination topic to be studied in module four of their chemistry course.

Upon arrival, students were provided with a sample of one of three analgesics – aspirin, ibuprofen, or paracetamol – and were instructed to

use various methods of chemical analysis, including infrared spectroscopy and thin layer chromatography, to deduce which of the analgesics their sample contained. Students were also provided with an opportunity to tour the department and see the nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) machines and mass spectrometers used by the university, providing great insight into the efficacy of spectroscopy in chemistry. The trip was wonderfully informative and provided a good context for the work students will be covering in the summer term.

*Teresa Thornton, L6B*

## SECOND YEAR RE TRIP TO LONDON

On Friday, 25th May, forty-one students and four members of staff set off at the crack of dawn for a fun-packed weekend in London.

We arrived at Bhaktivedanta Manor, near Watford, which is a Hindu temple and is the home and workplace of a Hindu community. There we enjoyed a tour of the site and even had a ride on a bullock cart.

We then travelled on to our accommodation for the weekend, Baden Powell House, where we had tea and got ready for the theatre. We went to see 'The Lion King' which was amazing and enjoyed by everyone.

On the second day we visited the very impressive Swaminarayan Mandir, a beautiful Hindu temple in Neasden.

After lunch we travelled to Wembley Stadium, where we watched the NPower League One final between Sheffield United and Huddersfield Town; it was a nail-biting match decided on penalties. We sat with the supporters of the Huddersfield team, who won 8-7. On our last day in London we visited the Natural History Museum, Madame Tussauds and enjoyed a ride on the London Eye.

We returned home to Ripon on Sunday night, shattered but full of happy memories.

*Poppy Dunstan 2A*

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD GOLD EXPEDITION

**Over the last four days of the June half-term holiday, three teams of participants endured biting winds and almost continuous rain in order to complete their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Fifteen members of the lower-sixth form embarked upon an arduous journey through the wildest terrain known to Englishmen: the Lake District during the British summer. Students experienced blisters, burnt limbs and insect bites, to finish exhausted, yet in high spirits.**

Particularly memorable was our night of wild camping in Ennerdale, in a location known as 'Windy Gap'. With winds of up to fifty miles per hour, we found the location was aptly named! Nonetheless, it was a beautiful place to spend the night, fully equipped with a handy river and a steep climb to greet us early the next morning.

As part of the award, the teams had to be self-sufficient throughout the expedition, including carrying four days' worth of food. It is safe to say that,

although anything tastes like haute cuisine after a long day of walking, meals at home since the walk are enjoyed without the flavouring of meths fuel and the extra protein provided by complementary midges.

Despite the unseasonably difficult conditions, each team relished the challenge, building upon skills developed during the Bronze and Silver awards. The route (exact details of which differed for each team) circled for over eighty kilometres of wild terrain around Buttermere, Keswick and Cockermouth. The effort was definitely worth the sense of achievement when we discovered that we had all passed. While some students might never approach their walking boots again, for most the expedition encouraged an appreciation of walking and an improved sense of self-discipline.

*Jacob Lockwood, L6C*

# PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

If you would like to join RGS Photographic Club please contact Mr G Davis at school.



Water by Beau Roddis



A self portrait by Isobel Gould



Transport by Isobel Gould

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### September

Fri 21	Tea for first form parents – 4.15pm
Tues 25	Fourth form parents' information evening – 4.30pm

### October

Thurs 2	School photograph day
W/C Mon 22	Charity week – in aid of 'Operation Smile'
Fri 26	School closes for half term holiday

### November

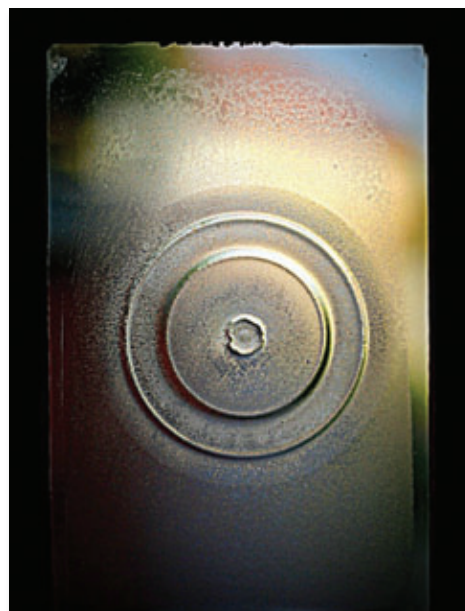
Mon 5	School opens
Tues 6	Fifth form parents' evening – 4.30pm
Fri 9	Speech Day – 2pm
Wed 14	Upper Sixth form parents' evening – 4.30pm
Thurs/Fri 15/16	House Drama – 7pm

### December

Thurs 6	Lower Sixth form parents' evening – 4.30pm
Sat 15	Old Riponians' Day
Tues 18	Carol Service, Ripon Cathedral – 7.30pm
Fri 21	School closes 12.30pm

### January

Mon 7	School opens
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A window by Mr McLellan

For further information please contact us:

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