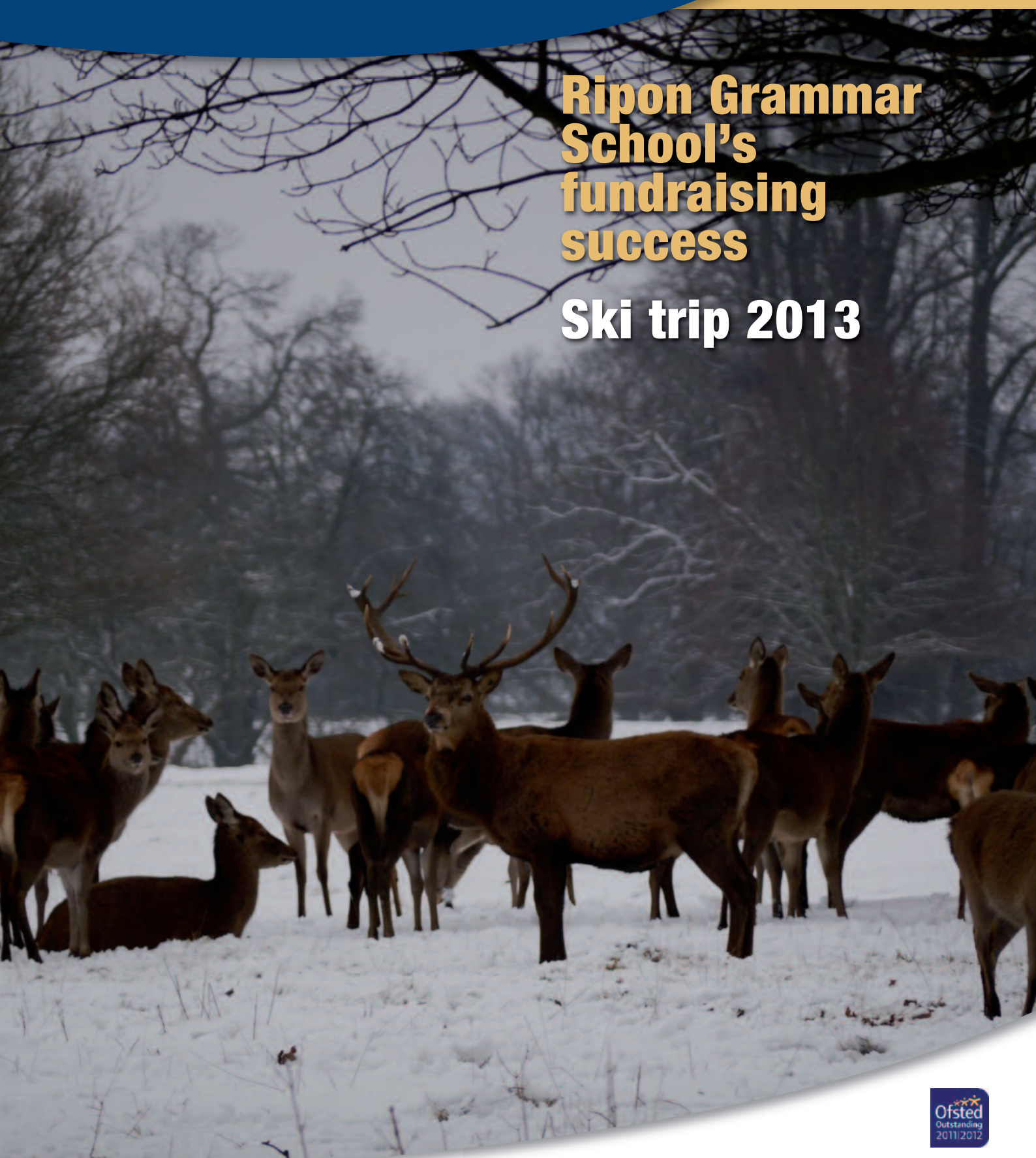


Ripon Grammar School's fundraising success

Ski trip 2013



Photograph courtesy of Emma Beaumont, 4B



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Spring edition of the RGS News which brings to a conclusion a very short and hectic Spring term. Examinations for fifth and sixth form students loom and study leave dates for these year groups have already been fixed. They are as follows:

Fifth form Friday, 10 May 2013
(following leavers' assembly at 10am)

Lower Sixth Friday, 10 May 2013 at 3.45pm
(no leavers' assembly)

Return for A2 teaching on Thursday, 6 June 2013

Upper Sixth Wednesday, 22 May 2013
(following leavers' assembly at 10am)

(The Upper Sixth farewell evening is on Tuesday, 21 May 2013 at 7pm)

The summer term is characterised by many external examinations and I know it will be a very busy time for everyone. The deadline for UCAS is fast approaching and I am delighted by the success that the Upper Sixth have enjoyed in securing excellent offers from prestigious universities.


I have been inundated with many positive comments about our students from the local community. A very large number of students are involved in a wide range of community projects and they never fail to impress employers and other people with whom they come into contact. Our students are tremendous ambassadors for the school

and I have no doubt that they have the potential to be very successful, not only at school, but in later life. I am also very grateful to the staff, who work extremely hard on the students' behalf and provide an excellent range of opportunities, not only in the classroom but also outside school.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the RGS News which reflects a small snap-shot of the activities which have taken place this term. My two half-term newsletters are on the school website and provide further detail of activities over the term.

I wish you a very enjoyable and relaxing Easter.

Yours sincerely



M L Pearman (Headmaster)



ECDL SUCCESS AT RGS



The European Computer Driving Licence is an ICT-based course accessible to all students, parents and staff of RGS. It allows you to gain vital expertise in different areas of ICT and is a valuable qualification which will help set you apart from the rest in the world of work, where a growing number of employers are placing greater emphasis on your ICT skills.

To complete the course, all you need to do is complete seven short modules in Basic Concepts of ICT, Using a Computer and Managing Files, Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Databases, Presentations and Information & Communications. Over one hundred RGS students have already completed the course, as well as one of our dinner-ladies, Mrs Rowston. If you are interested in this course, don't hesitate to speak to Mr Walker, who would be delighted to help you complete it.

Jamie Blyton, L6F

RIPON COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA CONCERT

On Tuesday 5th February numerous Ripon Grammar School students participated in the annual Ripon Community Orchestra Concert, which included performances by the Skelldale Singers and Ripon Grammar School String Orchestra.

Those attending enjoyed a varied selection of music. The accomplished Ripon Community Orchestra, led by conductor Mr Xen Kelsey and featuring a number of our students, performed a selection of pieces including Edward German's dances from Henry VIII, the third movement of Haydn's fourth symphony and Ponchielli's Dance of the Hours, to an extremely high standard.

The Skelldale Singers, who recently appeared on ITV's 'The Dales', performed a wide variety of pieces; from jovial, light-hearted songs such as "With a little bit of luck" and "Goodbye Sweetheart" to the Les Miserables classic "Do you hear the people sing" and a beautiful hymn "The Prayer". The group succeeded in putting a smile on everybody's face. Following this, the Ripon Grammar School String Orchestra took to the stage with two movements from Peter Warlock's Capriol Suite and the animated piece "Spread a Little Happiness." Conducted by Mrs Katie Stables, the orchestra received a resounding, complimentary reception.

The evening proved to be a very pleasant affair, allowing the students of Ripon Grammar School to involve themselves in the wider community and reveal their musical talents.

Lucy Watkiss, L6F

INTERMEDIATE MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE 2013 AND BEYOND



One hundred and twenty-six students from the third year to the fifth year completed the annual UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge this term and, as always, Ripon Grammar School's students enjoyed terrific success with nearly two thirds of the participants receiving a certificate. In all, the students achieved thirty-nine Bronze certificates, twenty Silver certificates and twenty-two Gold certificates. For those with higher scores there are further opportunities to take part in more demanding competitions.

Four students from the third form and a further seven students from the fourth and fifth forms are eligible to attempt the Grey and Pink Kangaroo papers respectively. Special recognition should go to Ben Pease and Jessica Rutherford and to Jonathan Tanner who have qualified for the next round of the mathematical Olympiads. Our best wishes go to these students as they test their skills.

Other important dates

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 8 March | Fourth year Team UK Mathematics Competition at Bootham School in York |
| 13 March | Lower Sixth National Business Game Competition (Accountancy) |
| 18/19 March | UKMT Mathematical Circle at The Grammar School at Leeds (Kieran Woodcock/Matthew Cotton) |
| 20 March | Visit to Leeds University's mathematics department |
| 24 April | UK Junior Mathematics Challenge (first and second forms) |

Contributions from Further Mathematicians

Mathematics is a vast and enjoyable subject and, for some students, studying further mathematics at advanced level helps to prepare students for a number of mathematical and engineering opportunities, as well as giving them the opportunity to enjoy the more abstract applications of the subject. This option has been extended with the introduction of Level 2 certificate in further mathematics for some students alongside their mathematics GCSE.

When asked for some insight into the subject, our upper-sixth students opted to demonstrate their love for the subject with some jokes; for some reason they needed to demonstrate that we have a sense of humour! Here are a couple:

- There was an argument between i and π . i told π to get rational – π told i to get real
- There are only ten types of people in the world – those who understand binary and those who don't!
- Why are powers like fish? Because they are all in the seas!

We will leave it for you to decide if we have a sense of humour!

MATHEMATICS VISITS TO GREYSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

As fourth year Alpha 1 mathematics students, we were given the amazing opportunity to go and help out at Greystone Primary School this year.

When James Donaldson, Elle Lamb, Jacob Turner and I arrived at Greystone's for the first time, we were greeted by Mrs Lumsdon, the Year 6 teacher, and the Year 6 pupils. We set the pupils some challenges, and they 'dived in' with enthusiasm. As overseers of the activities, we were able to help the students figure out the various problems and offer them support. They seemed to enjoy the tasks we set them and were very comfortable talking to us about them.

The next time we went, we gave the children some nets which they would transform into three-dimensional calendars. They seemed to struggle a little more with the task of building a dodecahedron, so we were there to help.

During our most recent visit to Greystone's, we set up some mathematical puzzles that were displayed around the room. The children were given an answer sheet to record their solutions. The students seemed extremely keen on this task, and that may have been due to the edible prizes that were on offer to the students with the largest number of correct answers. By the end of the session, we were so pleased with their efforts that we rewarded them all with a chocolate or a sweet.

It was an excellent experience to be able to help at the primary school, and everyone agreed that it was entirely enjoyable and beneficial for both the students and our team from Ripon Grammar School. It was a privilege to be chosen and I am sincerely looking forward to our next visit.

Lucy Watkiss, L6F



MATHEMATICS IN THE PAST

As you will be aware from recent (and frequent) coverage in the media, and the on-going curriculum review by current government, assessment has changed over the years. With the future of GCSEs uncertain, and a review into the link between AS and A2, it is perhaps opportune to reflect on the mathematics of the past. By delving into the archives, we have

located some examination papers from Ripon School set in 1873. Whilst it is widely acknowledged that the fundamental skills of mathematics have not changed over the past century, the nature of the assessment may well have changed. This might make for an interesting competition across the generations over the Easter holidays!

RIPON SCHOOL.

—
Christmas Examination, 1873.
—

UPPER AND LOWER SCHOOLS.

Euclid and Algebra.

1. Give the definitions of a right angle, and a circle: and state the three postulates.
2. The angles at the base of an isosceles triangle are equal to one another, and if the equal sides are produced the angles on the other side of the base will be equal.
3. If the angles B, C of an isosceles triangle are bisected by straight lines which meet in O , prove that OBC will also be an isosceles triangle.
4. If two triangles have two sides of the one equal to two sides of the other, each to each, and have likewise their bases or third sides equal, then shall the angle contained by the two sides of the one be equal to the angle contained by the two sides equal to them of the other.
5. If from the ends of the side of a triangle two straight lines are drawn to a point within the triangle, these shall be less than the other two sides of the triangle.
If ABC is a triangle, and O any point within it, prove that $OA + OB + OC$ are less than the sum, but greater than half the sum of $AB + BC + CA$.

6. Explain the terms *coefficient* and *factor* and *index*. Write out the expression $4a^2x^3$ without either numerical coefficient or index.
7. What is the result of taking $10 - 8$ from 13 ? and of taking $x - y$ from z ? Subtract $9x^3 - 3ax^2 - 5a^2x + 2a^3$ from $7x^3 - ax^3 - 11a^2x$.
8. Multiply together $3x^3 - 7xy - 4y^3$, and $4x^3 - 7x^2y + y^3$.
9. Simplify the following expressions—
 $3[a - 2\{2b + (a - c)\} - b]$, $\frac{1}{2}[3a^2 - (2a - x)^2 + (x - a)^2]$, and find their values when $a = 1, b = -2, c = 3, x = -4$.
10. Divide $x^6 - 2x^5 + 6x^4 - 7x^3 + 6x^2 + 7x - 15$ by $x^4 + 3x^3 - x - 5$.
11. Solve the equations and verify them—
(1.) $12x - \frac{19 - 3x}{4} = 17\frac{3}{5} - \frac{x - 1}{8}$.
(2.) $\frac{x}{a} + \frac{x}{b} + \frac{x}{c} = \frac{1}{a + b + c}$.
12. Two pounds of tea and three pounds of sugar cost 10s.; but if tea were to rise 25 per cent., and sugar fall 25 per cent., they would cost 9s. 6d. Find the prices of tea and sugar.

RIPON SCHOOL.

—
Christmas Examination, 1873.
—

LOWER SCHOOL.

Arithmetic.

1. Write down the numbers three thousand and seventeen, twenty thousand seven hundred, eleven thousand and four; add these numbers together, and write down the result in words.
2. Multiply 346078 by 79043. Explain why you put the figures one place to the left in the second line in multiplying.
3. Divide the sum of 84732 and 82569 by their difference.
4. Reduce to farthings £872. 17s. 5½d.; and reduce one million farthings to pounds.
5. Write out the tables of square and cubic measure.
6. Multiply 7 tons 16 cwt. 1 qr. 11 lbs. by 29.
7. Prove that $\frac{2}{5} = \frac{4}{10}$, and generally that a fraction is not altered when its numerator and denominator are multiplied or divided by the same number.
8. Add the quantities $\frac{2}{3}$ of £2. 10s. 7½d. and $\frac{1}{11}$ of £13. 5s. 3½d.
9. Reduce to their simplest forms $\frac{2}{3}$ of $1\frac{5}{8} \div \frac{1}{15}$; and $1 - \frac{\frac{2}{3}}{\frac{7}{4} - \frac{1}{2}}$.
10. Find the G.C.M. of 576 and 945, and the L.C.M. of 46, 72, 136, 256 and 864.
11. A can do a piece of work in $2\frac{1}{2}$ days, and B in $3\frac{1}{3}$ days: what portion of the work will they do in one day, and how long would it take them to finish it?

Christmas Examination, 1873.

—
UPPER SCHOOL.
—

Arithmetic.

1. Among how many persons must £641. 14s. 11½d. be divided so that the share of each may be £2. 15s. 6¾d.?
2. Find the value of 63 cwt. 3 qrs. at 12 guineas the cwt. What would be the profit on it if sold at 2s. 5½d. a lb.?
3. Express in their simplest forms $\frac{77}{67184}$, and $\frac{19}{2}$, and $1\frac{2}{7} \times 2\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{6}$.
 $9 + \frac{1}{3 - 1\frac{2}{3}}$
4. Express as decimals $\frac{17}{1000}, \frac{351}{1000000}, \frac{5117}{51200}, \frac{6}{13}$.
5. Subtract the cube of .13 from the square of .28, and divide the result by the square of 2.
6. How many acres are there in a square field each side of which is 330 yards? If a square field contained an acre, how many yards long would it be?
7. Find the total internal and external surfaces of a box whose internal dimensions are 3 ft. 2 in., 2 ft. 4 in., 1 ft. 10 in., and made of wood half-an-inch thick.
8. Find the compound interest on £250. 15s. for 4 years at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
9. Some goods were to be sold at a price which would give 10 per cent. profit, but one-quarter of them were damaged and sold at two-thirds the price of the rest. Find the total gain or loss per cent.
10. A broker whose commission is $\frac{1}{8}$ th per cent. received £4064. 14s. 7½d. to invest in bank stock at 188½. What amount of stock would he purchase, and what would be his commission?
11. Iron weighing 444 lbs. to the cubic foot, find to the nearest tenth of an inch the diameter of an iron ball that shall weigh 20 lbs.

SKI TRIP 2013

After one hundred and fifteen days of waiting patiently with count downs on our 'phones, the ski trip 2013 finally arrived! Forty sleepy students stood in the car park at seven o'clock in the morning, clutching their pillows, waiting eagle-eyed for the coach to arrive. Suddenly a cheer rippled through the crowd of Team Ski, a bus was coming towards us... and straight past it goes. We were not impressed. Finally, after the late-comers turn up, our vehicle arrives in the bus lane and immediately our fatigue is converted into enthusiasm and excitement.

Twenty-eight hours later, following numerous 'comfort' stops, a ferry journey, much banter and many jokes, and continuous shouting of "What team?! TEAM SKI!", we arrived at Salzburg Sportwelt. The first day consisted of a social evening in the hotel. We all went to bed exhausted ready for the first day of skiing.

6:15 am in the Team Ski hotel. Breakfast at seven o'clock was quiet, but as we collected our skis and ski boots and rode up on the chair lift, a first for some, excitement echoed through the crisp mountain atmosphere. We were up early enough to catch the fresh snow, powdery and perfect for skiing, untouched by other skiers.

The first day whizzed by. After that, everyone was split up into groups based on ability, from beginners, some who had never skied before, to advanced, who we classed as 'pro'. Catching up at lunch every day was always fun, discussing various falls by students but most importantly the hilarious wipe-outs of teachers. We then skied for another two and a half hours before, sadly and tiredly, heading back to the hotel for evening activities. After a week of this routine even the beginners had tried the



steepest red runs and everyone had greatly improved; a special thanks to our amazing instructors!

In the evening, we had a few hours of free time to explore the town and chat with our friends before dinner. The food was provided by the hotel and was very good. After we finished the meal Mr Colley advised us of our notices for the day and announced the three awards that everyone was waiting to hear; 'gaff of the day', 'deck of the day' and 'skier of the day'. After hearing the amusing stories of the prizes, hoodies would be given out in the most embarrassing colours, just to make sure that everyone would notice them. Next, an activity would commence, from quizzes organised by the teachers, to ice skating, and to a visit to an amazing swimming pool and water slide. We all appreciate the hard work put in by Giles, our rep.

Overall the trip was a great success and there was not one person who did not enjoy it. On behalf of Team Ski we are really grateful for all of the effort put in by our amazing and patient teachers and hope that we haven't put them off for next year!

by Yaz Ebert, Emily Peirson and Rachael Pond

CAREERS AT RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Mrs Locke joined Ripon Grammar School in November 2012 as joint Head of Careers. With a background both as a teacher and formerly as a human-relations officer in the NHS, Mrs Locke is delighted to be combining her skills to assist students in planning and preparing for future courses and careers.

Since taking up her post Mrs Locke has been actively involved in careers work within the classroom, as well as participating in, and organising, a range of careers events. Mrs Locke has found that the role is hugely rewarding and varied, and she has very much

enjoyed getting to know students and staff in this highly motivated and welcoming school. She is looking forward to a busy year throughout 2013 and to the many planned activities yet to come in this school year!

Careers Library and Website

The well-resourced careers library is now open daily from 8.30am to 5pm and students from all year groups can call in to use the resources and discuss career ideas. The website, at www.ripongrammar.co.uk/careers is designed to assist students to explore all their options and includes pages on higher education, studying abroad, job hunting and gap years, together with links to recommended websites for further information.

Careers Programme

The careers programme is continually reviewed in order to enhance the information, advice and guidance that is offered to students. Parents are invited to contact the careers department to discuss courses or careers that are of interest to their son or daughter, or to offer to contribute to the careers programme. In addition, a large-scale careers evening is being planned for Spring 2014; if parents or organisations would like to be involved they should contact either Mrs Wilson by email at wilsonf@ripongrammar.co.uk or Mrs Locke at lockej@ripongrammar.co.uk

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

In September a group of lower-sixth students launched their own company under the Young Enterprise Company Programme. The company, which the students have named 'Connect' has been buying in locally made jams and chutneys, marketing them with their own brand and logo, and selling them at various events along with a wide range of Yorkshire Teas in support of their 'afternoon tea', 'very British' concept. The most recent of these events was the North Yorkshire Young Enterprise trade fair at York Designer Outlet in which Connect competed against various other schools from Yorkshire & Humberside for prizes such as 'best concept' and 'best stall design'. As well as selling over forty jars of jam, the team managed to come second for 'best stall design'. The trade fair was also an excellent opportunity for the Connect team members to meet students from a wide range of schools, and also gain some inspiration for the future.

At the end of this school year, 'Connect' will compete in the regional finals with the hope of taking their presentation and business plan through to the national final. In the meantime they will continue to sell locally at Handpicked Hall, Ripon, parents' evenings and other school events. The team have also recently showcased their fledgling business at Venturefest, a business networking event held at York Racecourse at the end of February.

Flora Holmes L6D

(photos taken and edited by Harry Johnston)





Parents' Association

NEWS FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



It's great to start the New Year with a bang and what better way than a "sell-out" Burns' Night on January 26th which raised £2,553! The attached photograph shows how much people enjoyed themselves.

Thanks to the organising expertise of Fiona Pearman, more than one hundred people enjoyed an evening of good food and live entertainment. Thanks are also due to Harvest Foods for the home-made soup, to the Evans family for the haggis and to the parents whose excellent puddings ensured we retain more of the profit from ticket sales.

Guests were treated to the sounds of Scottish bagpipes which heralded the haggis, and thanks are due to the contributions of John Mackenzie, who gave the legendary salutation to the Immortal Memory, and to David Hall. 'Cobblers Jig' ceilidh band fought their way through early snow, and dancing was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Mel Lyall, Margaret Pimley, Louise Stringer and Peri Langdale ran the kitchen with great efficiency, while new committee members Ele Hartas and Annie Rose were 'run off their feet' at the bar! Nicky Woolfenden managed to dance and take photos at the same time! The fantastic raffle prize of the 'Ultimate Sunday Lunch' at Swinton Park, Yorkshire Restaurant of the Year in the White Rose Awards, and worth £300, was won by the Craddock family who were absolutely delighted. Thanks to Ruth Campbell for arranging this prize.

The great British weather has caused endless postponements to the Astronomy Evenings with Mr Barker. In the end, after the worst possible weather conditions in astronomy terms, forty people enjoyed Mr Barker's power point tour of the solar system, and then a visit to the observatory for some star gazing and sighting of the planets, including Jupiter. This was followed by refreshments of mulled wine, hot chocolate and cake! Due to the popularity of these evenings, but with a limitation of numbers because of the size of the observatory, Mr Barker has offered to host these annually. So if you weren't lucky enough this time please do check the Parents' Association pages of the school website for future dates.

We are launching our Summer Raffle at Easter which is potentially our biggest fundraising exercise. The overall theme is 'Food, Glorious Local Food' and the top prize, kindly donated by Ridding Park and worth £750, is a wild food foraging expedition followed by a three-course meal for six at Ridding Park.

This will be led by TV chef Stephanie Moon. Our thanks go to Ruth Campbell for securing this magnificent prize. At the time of printing, other prizes include a hamper from Booths (who gave us brilliant support at the Christmas Fair), Holme Farm venison, a Christmas turkey from Hook House Farm, a signed apron from TV Chef James Martin and signed cookery books from other celebrity chefs including the famous Magpie Café in Whitby. Raffle tickets will be sent home via your child and if every family to whom we send tickets sells a small number to friends and family this could potentially raise £12,000 for our school.

All the PA fundraising events benefit our school, especially the funding of the minibus. This is an advertising tool for our 'Top 20 UK school' status!!!! Unlike other secondary schools this ensures that our pupils are not charged for each trip they take in the minibus whether it's attending a music event or sports match. Recently the minibus was used to bring primary school pupils, some of whom are joining us in September, to Ripon Grammar School for science and sports lessons.

Don't forget the '200 Club'; for just £1.25 a month you can join our '200 Club' and have a chance of winning the first prize of £50 or second prize of £25 each month. For more information see the school website.

To use a phrase from a famous supermarket "every little helps", the Parents' Association are grateful for even small amounts of time and effort from our parent community. We do need you, in whatever capacity you can spare. The recent sixth-form open evening, for example, was attended by over six hundred people and the small refreshment team were extremely busy. Just an hour on the rota from a new volunteer would have been life saving. We also need ideas for fun events that will capture imagination and earn cash! We have developed a new form entitled "Your PA Needs You" and you may have been asked to complete this at a parents' evening. We hope that you were able to do so but if not you can download this from the PA web page. Your name and contact details will then be placed on our database and you will only be contacted if you volunteer yourself in some capacity!

Thank you again for supporting us in all the ways you have so far; it is much appreciated.

Alison Reed, Chair



OLD RIPONIANS' ASSOCIATION

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

IF YOU EVER DOUBTED THAT PHYSICS IS EXCITING... (CATHERINE HOSSAIN 1989-1996)

After I left Ripon Grammar School I headed off to Bath University to study physics. I was still undecided about whether I wanted to join the Army or do something completely different, but I did know that I did not want to end up stuck in a lab for the rest of my career. A bit of poking around in the careers office led to me applying to DERA (Defence and Evaluation Research Agency), the predecessor to Dstl (Defence Science and Technology Laboratory), and getting a job there.

During my first couple of years I spent a lot of time working on projects in the lab and becoming a specialist in optical physics. I got involved in a lot of different trials, with many of them being conducted in the Dark Tunnel at RAF Pershore and the rest being conducted in wet and windy locations around the UK.

When equipment problems were encountered in Iraq and Afghanistan there was a big push for research to find solutions, and I became heavily involved in the optics development and testing. Of course, in order to determine the performance of equipment in harsh environments that meant doing trials in them.

My first 'extreme-weather trial' was done over five weeks in Australia on the Woomera Prohibited Area, home of the famous rocket range. I had to solve some pretty serious equipment problems during the first week, which included the explosion of a large oil-filled resistor, a very expensive optical sensor being too delicate for Australian sunshine and some serious software issues. Seventy-two hours later, despite no sleep, all of the problems were sorted and the trial started. In order to collect all of the data we needed we ended up working in split shifts around the clock and dealing with the 45°C temperatures and 50mph searing winds coming in off the desert, not to mention the highly poisonous wildlife!

As the Australia trial had been such a success, I was chosen to head up a trials team to go out to Kenya to do multi-terrain trials. The biggest challenge for this trial was the risk- assessment paperwork! With risks of heat illness, acute mountain sickness and off-road 4x4 driving in the middle of nowhere, there was a lot of preparation to do before we even set foot on a plane. We spent three very hot and dusty weeks at Archer's Post in temperatures that were nudging 50°C and then we had to head up Mount Kenya to 4500m. It was hard work getting up there and then doing trials in the pitch black and freezing cold, but watching the sunrise at the end of it was spectacular! That was a definite 'I love my job' moment.

After a final set of extreme weather trials in Oman I volunteered to go out to Iraq as an Operational Analyst. My job was to take all of the available information, analyse it and look for patterns and measures of change. Easier said than done when the working day was interrupted regularly with rocket attacks on the base! I did manage to escape to Baghdad a few times for international conferences held in a palace - surreal! The working days were pretty intense starting with the daily brief

at 8am, which meant getting into the office at 7.30 to make sure that my slides were written, and finishing when people stopped asking me to do things. On a really good day that would be about 9pm, most days finished about 11pm, but there were a few 3am finishes as well!

During my time at Dstl I spent around eight years working with 33 EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) developing technologies for searching. That led to me being asked to deploy with the C-IED (Counter Improvised Explosive Device) Task Force as their scientific advisor. I had lots of different jobs while I was there. My main job was to trial different methods of finding IEDs and also to deal with the technical issues that the searchers were having while they were out on the ground. I had my own trials compound and spent a great deal of time there trialling equipment, understanding issues and working with the military search dogs (oh, and helping the EOD guys to blow things up). Although my main base was at Camp Bastion I also went off to other bases on a regular basis to catch up with various teams. Commuting took on a whole new meaning! Rather than hopping on a bus, I hopped on a helicopter. I'm very glad that I didn't suffer from travel sickness because it would not have gone well with the tactical low level flying! My nine months there seemed to flash past in the blink of an eye, but there are memories that will never leave me of the friends who didn't get to come home.

So, here I am back in the UK, now embedded with the military for four years and still not stuck in a lab. I'm now expanding my specialism into vision science and optimising the man/machine interface and am just about to complete an Open University psychology degree that I have somehow managed to study for while I've been gallivanting all over the world. So, that is my story to date. Who knows what's next on the cards.....



Me and 'Mad' – Mad is a Belgian Malinois and was one of the specialist search dogs that worked out in Afghanistan with the search teams to detect and clear IEDs to create safe routes. This was him on a rest day after having some fun in the training compound.

SUMMER REUNION - JULY 2013

We all remember what an excellent reunion we had last summer to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the amalgamation of the boys' and girls' schools. This summer, on 13th July, we intend to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the opening of our swimming pool!

It was built with the main labour provided by the boys, mainly boarders, who spent months digging the 'hole'. When it was opened in 1903 it was unheated, untiled and in the open air, but it was much appreciated by the school. It wasn't until 1960, when building works began, preparing for the coming of the girls, that all these things were rectified! After all the girls couldn't be expected to swim in such uncomfortable conditions could they?

Recently the pool has required extensive renovation, which is almost

complete, and, with the cooperation of the school, the Old Rips would like to invite you all, today's students and staff, Old Rips, former students, former staff, family and friends, to the school to swim in or look at the pool, and hopefully raise some money to buy 'luxury' items to kit it out. It will also be an opportunity for people to see the excellent exhibition on the history of the school, which was put together last summer. I know how much people enjoyed it and many people didn't have chance to see it.

The day will be rounded off by a dinner at the Old Deanery. Last year's dinner, held in the afternoon after the Fiftieth Reunion, was an excellent social event.

We will publish more details later on our web site, but put the date in your diary: Saturday, 13 July 2013.



LOWER-SIXTH VOLUNTEERING

Throughout the year, many lower-sixth students have chosen to dedicate their enrichment time to volunteer in various placements in the city. This continues to be a valuable opportunity to experience new things, meet new people and ultimately to give something back to our ever-supportive community.

I have recently been volunteering at The Walled Garden Scheme, where I have assisted with various gardening jobs. I have found this to be a valuable experience and, as well as having fun, it has been brilliant to be able to help the workers there.

Harriet Cunningham L6E

During enrichment on a Wednesday afternoon, I volunteer at a care home in Ripon. I really enjoy chatting to the residents and hearing about all of their

unique stories, including war stories, tales of whale hunting and past high-school teaching experiences. There is also a dementia facility, with residents who suffer from severe memory loss. It is often difficult to hold a conversation with these residents, however do not underestimate their talents when it comes to dominoes!

Zara Cotton L6B

I have been lucky enough to secure a volunteering placement at Ripon Community Link who shop for and deliver to residents at Sunnyfield Lodge. I have helped out with the residents' weekly food shopping at a local supermarket and then helped to deliver it to Sunnyfield Lodge. We serve the residents tea and coffee as well as delivering their shopping. It has been a very enjoyable and fun experience and I have been very fortunate to work with the other volunteers.

Sally Ingram L6E

THE HOUSE SYSTEM FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR IS IN FULL SWING!

All Master Chef challenges were completed before Christmas and with the improved weather it is now time to get the girls' upper school hockey competition underway.

The University Challenge events so far have been fiercely competitive; the sixth form and upper school students were keen to take the triumph for their houses.

In the sixth-form challenge, Hutton were, unfortunately unable to field a team but the remaining teams competed with great enthusiasm. The 'HONK', 'DING-DONG' and 'BOING' of the buzzers clashed with each other as the teams responded to questions, asked by our very own Jeremy Paxman. The answers came thick and fast and the three houses demonstrated a vast range

of subject knowledge in their answers to questions, which covered a wide range of areas including art and literature, entertainment and film, geography and general knowledge.

School House took the lead from the beginning and Twm Stone, Robbie Aitken, Ellie Hill and Katie Lees added two hundred points to the overall School House total, with Porteus coming second and DeGrey third.

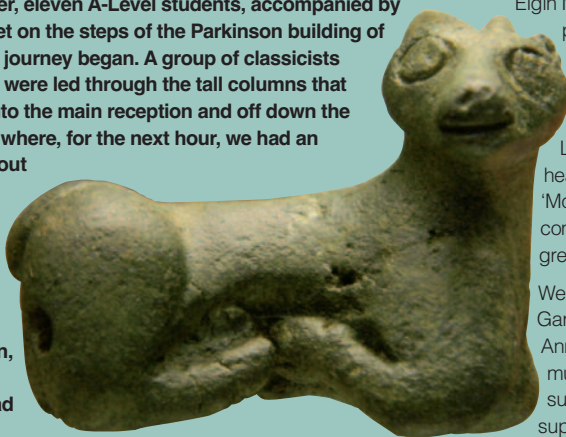
Events still to come this year include the upper-school hockey competition, Engineering Week, Dodgeball and Sports Day. I hope you are all looking forward to even more competitions!

*Miss Mann
Cover Supervisor
Head of House System*

CLASSICS TRIP TO LEEDS AND LONDON

On Thursday, 29 November, eleven A-Level students, accompanied by our teacher Dr Meakin, met on the steps of the Parkinson building of Leeds University, and our journey began. A group of classicists and Latin enthusiasts, we were led through the tall columns that framed the large doors, into the main reception and off down the corridors to a large office where, for the next hour, we had an interesting discussion about philosophy and its Greek origins, and considered many of the great philosophical problems: from pondering over whether time in itself exists independent of man, to whether the universe has an edge. Everyone had quite clearly found this fascinating, as debates over different theories continued all the way to Leeds station, where we boarded our train to King's Cross.

After a good two hours on the train, we journeyed through the city's streets, bright with the lights of Christmas, to our charming hotel. Having had half an hour to unpack, we met in the hotel's reception before heading towards the British Museum. One can't miss the museum, for it looks as though it could belong in ancient Greece itself. Its ionic columns standing tall, this is a building that conveys a sense of majesty. Inside, passing the magnificent relics of Ancient Egypt, we made our way to a large room designed specifically to house various elements of the Parthenon, varying from long friezes depicting women with vases and various livestock, to the metopes: large slabs of marble on which there are glorious carvings that display epic mythical battles, such as the battle against the Amazons, and the battle between the Lapiths and the Centaurs. Alongside these were the famous



Elgin Marbles, which I for one certainly felt in awe of, leaving me pondering the amount of work that would have gone into making these phenomenal sculptures.

Leaving the museum with a feeling of amazement at what we had just seen, we decided to make our way through the streets of London to find a restaurant and, after having been revitalised, headed to the St. Martin's theatre to see Agatha Christie's 'Mousetrap', a play which proved to be enthralling as well as a complex 'whodunit'. Finally, we retired to our hotel for the night, greatly anticipating the following day.

We began our second day with a leisurely stroll around Covent Garden, before heading off to our lectures on Nero's Rome, Tacitus' Annals and Virgil's Aeneid. All of these were fascinating, as we learnt much about some of the history of Rome, including how emperors such as Caligula and Claudius greatly improved Rome's water supply via the famous aqueduct, and how writers such as Tacitus viewed the rebuilding of this great city, giving us an insight into the ways of an ancient civilisation. We then returned to the British Museum, to spend time appreciating the intricate artistry of the pots from ancient Greece, viewing hundreds of different pots in fact, for everyone was staggered by the sheer volume of this collection. Every corner we turned revealed to us yet more rooms filled with these astonishing artefacts, as though the museum were some sort of labyrinth. We then decided to broaden our knowledge in other areas of the museum, discovering the wonders of other civilisations such as that of the Egyptians, where we saw many engaging displays about the process of mummification and the preservation of the human body, alongside mighty carvings of sphinx's heads and scarab beetles. Reluctantly, we left the museum for a final time, having seen many fascinating exhibits, and made our way back to King's Cross to board our train to Leeds, with fond memories of our time in London.

By Lizzie Alblas L6D

ENGLISH MASTERCLASS AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

The morning of 23 March was very quiet; the snow was fluttering down over Cambridge, with only the punters stirring, as I made my way down one of the many small streets in the complex structure of this city to the Mill Lane Lecture Rooms. Upon entering the building, and being directed to the particular lecture room in which I would spend the next four hours of my day, I and the other one hundred and ninety nine other students were given a brief introduction to the day, and five minutes later our first lecture began.

This lecture was given by Dr Raphael Lyne, Senior Lecturer in English at Murray Edwards College, and was titled 'The Wisdom of Comedy'. Throughout this lecture, we focused on thinking about why we should take comedies just as seriously as tragedies, especially when looking at the works of Shakespeare. Many feel that the nuggets of wisdom that are found in tragedies are often more profound than in a comedy, but this may not necessarily be true. As Shakespeare wrote in King Lear, 'Many a true word hath been spoken in jest', and in this lecture we tried to find and understand these 'true words' that are often embedded in comedies. What we discovered were ideas about how a man should be content with who he is, and how we are all together and equal in life. Even quotes such as 'some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them' from the clown's speech in 'Twelfth Night', when taken out of context, seem to ring true. Perhaps there is more to learn from comedy than meets the eye.

Our second lecture, given by Dr Gavin Alexander, Senior Lecturer in English at Christ's College, was entitled 'A History of Story'. This lecture focused on exploring the etymology of words, in particular the word 'story', which comes from the word 'history', which in turn comes from the Greek word 'historia' meaning 'an enquiry'. We began to examine what a story is (usually described as a narrative of events), and what it

means to various individuals. For example, in his 'Aspects of the Novel' lecture in 1927, E.M Forster stated that in a novel a story 'runs like a backbone – or may I say a tapeworm', showing that he thought a story to be the bones of a novel, but that the artistry came in what surrounded it. We then considered what makes a good story, looking at how authors use techniques such as enumeration. For example, Tolkien in his Lord of the Rings trilogy mentions 'seven' rings for the Dwarf-Lords, 'nine' rings for the elves, 'one ring to rule them all' and so on. We pondered how effective this is, as well as how formulaic a story can be, as seen in the classic opening of 'once upon a time' in many children's fairy tales. We considered why children enjoy the predictability of these kinds of stories, and why as adults we enjoy more complex stories with plot-twists. This also involved looking at how our literature has evolved and become more complex, constantly changing over time as we have further developed our language, all of which was fascinating.

Our third and final lecture was given by Mr Steve Watts, Admissions Tutor, Homerton College and Chair of the University Admissions Forum, in which we were given tips on how to make a competitive university application. Here, we were informed about student life at university, and what university life can provide for us in terms of welfare and support, as well as facilities and tutoring. We were advised to put in our personal statement things we would be comfortable about talking about at interview, and what the universities are looking for in terms of top grades (a usual offer consisting of an A* and two A's at A2 level).

All three lectures proved to be very positive and interesting, and we all came away feeling inspired to work hard, read voraciously and continue to be intellectually courageous.

Lizzie Alblas L6D



REPORT: TH3 C PH3R CH A1 3 G3 (THE NATIONAL CIPHER CHALLENGE)

Codebreakers Twm Stone, Matthew Cotton, Lory Wong, John Ashton and Tom Hooper were commissioned by 'Agent Morris' to take part in the National Cipher Challenge and solve the mystery surrounding the will of a man named Tiberius. Before his death, Tiberius instructed MI6 to tell his nephew Nicholas that he was his chosen heir; however, it was not possible to tell Nicholas what he had inherited, and Tiberius had encrypted his will using a variety of complicated codes and ciphers. The National Cipher Challenge, set by the University of Southampton, challenged teams of students across the country to decipher Tiberius' last will and testament, in a series of eight tasks released at intervals

throughout the Autumn term. As the weeks went by, the codes became increasingly harder to break, and some required students to use computer programmes to work out the encryption algorithms. The final task involved a variation on the 'ADFGVX' cipher, which took a whopping ten days to crack; despite this substantial challenge, the team performed extremely well, finishing in the top three hundred teams, and coming joint first in part 'A' of the challenge. We would like to thank 'Agent Morris' for providing us with this opportunity, and generously supplying us with snacks to fuel our brains (even MI6 need to eat).

By Lory Wong, L6D

OXBRIDGE SUCCESS AT RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

There are a record number of students gaining offers to read subjects at Oxford and Cambridge this year. One student received an unconditional offer and nine students received conditional offers in a wide range of subjects from archaeology and anthropology to medicine. Mr Pearman, headmaster, said "I am delighted for the students who have worked very hard to achieve this success. Competition at all the top universities is very fierce so this is a significant achievement. I am very grateful to the staff who have prepared students so well, and I am confident that students will achieve the necessary grades in the summer".

Oxford

Madeline Corman
Jack Lale
Hugh McHale-Maughan
Benjamin Nabarro
Georgina Sanderson
Elizabeth Tearle

Chemistry
PPE
PPE
PPE
Medicine
Archaeology
& Anthropology

St Hilda's
Wadham
Brasenose
Pembroke
Brasenose
St John's

Cambridge

Siân Avery
Cameron McCormack
Fionnuala Morris

English
Engineering
Veterinary Science
(unconditional offer)
Classics

Gonville & Caius
King's
Newnham
Girton

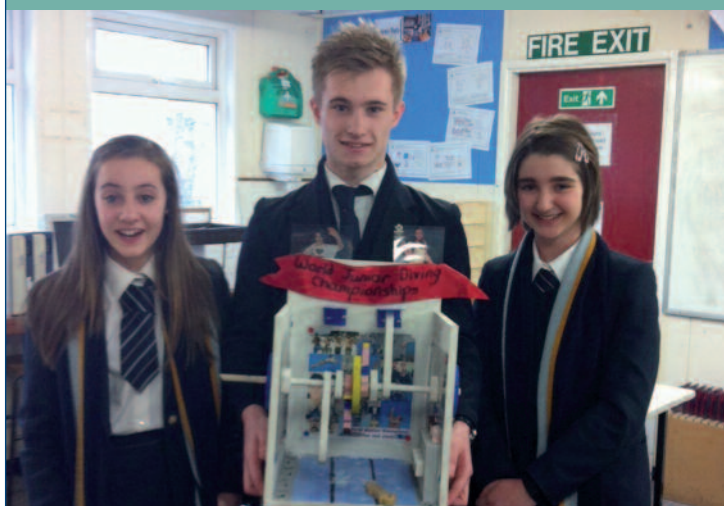
Julia Stanyard



PUPILS' SUPPORT FOR JACK LAUGHER

Just before Jack Laugher left Yorkshire to compete in the National Championships in Plymouth in early February, he made the day for two second-year girls by helping Mr Mann to mark their design technology automata project. Isobel Andrew, 2A and Annissa Cook, 2B designed and made the mechanical toy together during their design technology lessons as a tribute to the talents of Jack and Tom Daley. Their automata used cams to operate a pair of sprung diving boards and has two ratchets with figures of the two divers tumbling through the air over a pool of water! Pictures of a crowd and judges looking on completed an innovative and highly entertaining piece of design work. Jack was clearly moved by the tremendous effort the girls had made in completing the project. The girls thanked Jack for taking time out of his busy schedule of education and training and wished him luck for the imminent competition. It would be nice to think that this bit of extra support helped Jack in the diving competition where he successfully defended his title for the three-metre board and also came second on the one-metre board – well done Jack!

S.Mann



THE POETRY GAMES

Late last year, several A-level English Literature students participated in a poetry writing competition, 'The Poetry Games', resulting in twelve students having their work accepted for publication in a book. Below are two pieces of work written by two of the twelve students.

Tortured

*She had to leave again;
For it was the sixth month of the year.
The wind is summoned again.
For no one can protect me here.
The mad gusts knife at me,
Blood stains my skin.
I cry out loud, but only a harsh, dry rustling comes out.
My nerves are protruding in anger,
My hands start to curl in protest,
I am just skin-and-bone now,
But.
I die beautifully for I am a son of mother nature,
My burial complete with a frosty, soft white veil,
Which glitters like tiny crystals at the reflection of the sun.
I will resurrect again,
Later in the year,
Like Prometheus who had his liver eaten out again and again
I just wish I could die here.*

Lory Wong, L6D

Theatre

*Programmes selling
Seats filling
Curtains opening
Lights blinding
Music inspiring
Actors expressing
Dancers presenting
Sets providing
Director worrying
Technicians operating
Conductor leading
Chandelier falling
Smoke drifting
Greasepaint smelling
Critics analysing
One thousand and ninety nine people experiencing.*

Jonathan Pitts, L6F

RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL'S FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

Ripon Grammar School students were proud to present 'Operation Smile' with a cheque for £11,274.74, raised during their charity week. The charity, which helps children in the third world who suffer from cleft lips and palates, operates in over sixty countries, and employs 5,000 people.

Di Leal from 'Operation Smile' thanked the students, especially Head Girl, Georgina Sanderson, and Head Boy, Hugh McHale-Maughan, for this sum of money, which will allow seventy-five children to undergo surgery to repair facial deformity. Particular note must go to sixth formers Stephen Laws, Jacob Lockwood and Matthew Bell, who personally raised £2,000 by cycling from Edinburgh to Ripon.





PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB

The photographic club spent a snowy, Saturday morning at Studley Roger and these are some of their photographs.



by Lottie Robinson, 1C



by Emma Money, 1C



by Mr Davis



Waterfall by Beau Roddis, 2C



by Mr McLellan



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

- Mon 18 Third Form Outdoor Pursuits Course at Bewerley Park begins and Fourth Form examinations begin.
- Fri 22 Third Form return from Bewerley Park and Fourth Form examinations end.
- Thurs 28 School closes for Easter holidays at 12.30pm.

April

- Tues 15 School opens for Summer term.
- Thurs 25 Higher Education evening 6.30pm.

May

- Mon 6 School closed – Spring Bank Holiday
- Wed 15 Third form examinations begin
- Fri 17 Third form examinations end and Second year RE trip to London departs
- Sun 19 RE trip returns
- W/C Mon 20 Fourth year work experience – all week
- Fri 24 School closes at 3.55pm for half term

June

- Mon 3 School re-opens



RGS NEWS CONTACT DETAILS

If you would like to include an article in the next edition of the RGS News, please contact Mrs Patricia Storey, headmaster's secretary, at storeyp@ripongrammar.co.uk
View RGS News on our website www.ripongrammar.co.uk