

## Centenary Remembrance

Ripon Grammar School remembers the old boys and masters who died in World War One

## Costa Rica & Nicaragua 2014

Fifty-three pupils, five staff and three expedition leaders, two years of hard work and planning, for an exciting month in Central America.

## RGS Charity Week

Each year Ripon Grammar School spends a week fundraising for a charity nominated by the current sixth form. This year the chosen charity was the Batonga Foundation.

Issue 39 Winter 2014

# RGS News



Art students at Brimham Rocks



Specialist Schools and Academies Trust  
EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION





# Welcome...

## Dear Parents

A very warm welcome to this December edition of the RGS News, which reflects what a busy term this one has been.



I would like to welcome the new staff to Ripon Grammar School, and there are pen-portraits of them in this edition. They have all settled extremely well and I would like to wish them every success and happiness in their careers at Ripon Grammar School.

We are now getting used to using the new classroom block, which is much appreciated by both staff and students. I was very grateful to Mr John Cridland, director-general of the CBI, for giving up his time to open this new facility. Following hot-on-the-heels of this is news that we have now received planning permission for the expansion to Johnson House. This

will increase the number of female boarders which the school can accommodate to fifty. This project will start in February 2015, and tenders have already been returned and a contractor appointed. The expectation is that this will be completed in July 2015, in time for occupancy in the new academic year.

The term has gone extremely well and the students have risen to the challenge in virtually everything that they have undertaken. Success on the sports field has been tremendous; area champions in hockey for the U14s, U16s and U18s, together with success on the rugby field, in badminton, netball and volleyball.

Charity Week raised around £8,000 for the Batonga Foundation which champions women's rights in Africa. This activity, once again, affirms the fantastic leadership qualities that our students demonstrate. For me, giving the students these opportunities, is an essential part of their educational development. As Mr Cridland commented, success is only partly related to academic qualifications. The skills and qualities of leadership, resilience and communication are just as important, and education must be about developing these qualities in our students. I am very grateful to all the staff, who go above and beyond to provide so many extra-curricular opportunities for our students.

Speech Day was a wonderful occasion for celebration, recognising outstanding results at A-level and GCSE in 2014. A large number of students from last year's upper-sixth attended the event and the atmosphere was very upbeat. Mr Cridland, who represents 190,000 businesses, told the students they needed ambition, self-belief and a heavy dose of hard work. He said "What I have seen in this fantastic school is rounded education. But even in one of the best grammar schools in the country it's not all about success. There are setbacks and failures and it's what you do with those failures that matters".

House drama once again provided many highlights; most importantly, however, it is the leadership opportunity that this event provides, since the students wrote, directed and produced all the plays. As ever, the students rose to the occasion.

We enjoyed a tremendous carol service in the Cathedral and are now looking forward to Christmas. I would like to wish you a happy and restful festive season and I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely  
M L Pearman (Headmaster)

## A Month in the Country

Performed by North Country Theatre at RGS on Thursday 6th November 2014.

We were delighted to invite North Country Theatre to perform to a packed house on Thursday 6th November. The story was adapted by the company from J.L. Carr's book 'A Month in the Country'. The play was timely. It described the experiences of two men, an artist and archaeologist, recently released from the horrors of the trenches. Set in a North Yorkshire village, and with references to Ripon, it was an evocative and fascinating exploration of what



## Belgium Music Tour 2014

The air was brimming with excitement as twenty-seven students embarked on this summer's Music Department tour to Belgium.

Two large ensembles were created especially for the trip, which included a choir and a symphonic orchestra, with instruments ranging from strings to woodwind and brass. Miss Morpeth, Miss Jackson and Mrs Addis accompanied the group, as we set off for the first music tour in five years.

After some emotional goodbyes and a short drive to Hull, we boarded our overnight ferry to Zeebrugge. We sailed throughout the night before arriving in Belgium the following morning. We then headed for the Walibi Theme Park in central Belgium, on our way to our hotel in Lille.

The theme park was a thrilling experience which kept spirits high just in time for the evening meal. We then enjoyed an early night at the hotel before the hard work commenced.

Our first concert took place in the courtyard of a small outdoor museum. Although at first we lacked an audience due to the indecisive weather, throughout the trip we were incredibly spoiled for venues, including the Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres and inside St Michael's Church in Ghent; these were some of the most resplendent venues I've ever experienced. We were undoubtedly extremely privileged to have had the opportunity to perform there.

Our repertoire was both wide and varied, with music from the band including the Scottish hymn 'Highland Cathedral', and classic pop song 'Yesterday' by The Beatles. The Choir also performed a varied set-list which included 'Run' by Snow Patrol and 'When I Grow Up' from Matilda: The Musical. The impressive range of musical talent and commitment, on display from all the musicians, was apparent in the quality of all the performances throughout the tour.

We enjoyed free time in a range of cities which included Ypres, Ghent and Bruges, with plenty of chocolatiers to explore and delicious chocolates to devour. I personally enjoyed the exquisite gothic architecture commonly found throughout Belgium, which contributes towards the burgeoning ambience found in the narrowing back-streets and bustling tourist centres.

One of the highlights of the week for many was the impromptu trip to a local bowling alley, where we proceeded to take over five lanes for a bowling tournament. It was a narrow victory for Miss Morpeth, who claimed the title by only six points, following a closely fought battle with Kelvin Brinham of 4A.

Our final day was spent enjoying the sites and shops found in Bruges before returning back to Ripon, just in time for the musicians to perform in the Commemoration Day Service on the final day of term.

Katy Richardson of L6A said that "One of the best things about music is that loads of different year groups and ages are all together, so it's really easy to make new friends. Belgium was a week full of fun and laughter, and some new lasting friendships were made along the way!"

The tour was a fantastic way to close an extremely successful year in the music department, following the triumph of Les Misérables and the formation of several new ensembles.

Hannah Scholes, L6D

life must have been like for these servicemen returning to what must have felt like an alien and changed world. The company have a loyal and enthusiastic following and 'A Month in the Country' was another ingenious and highly entertaining production.

Mrs Ball

# AS Art Study Visit to Brimham Rocks and Cornwall

In order to prepare for the AS Art study visit to Cornwall, the AS Art students embarked on a trip to Brimham Rocks. The afternoon excursion was to prepare students for the speed of drawing required in Cornwall, and to experience using different surfaces and mediums, whilst incorporating their surroundings into their work.

We also completed a series of drawings and larger studies based on photographs taken at Brimham Rocks as part of our class work. Understanding the importance of landscapes prepared us to eventually study some of the artists who had based themselves in Cornwall and had allowed their work to be heavily influenced by their environment; these would become essential skills for our work in Cornwall.

The coach journey to England's southern-most region was the largest obstacle to overcome, and after a journey of nearly nine hours we



finally arrived at the youth hostel in Penzance.

We were warmly welcomed by a hot meal before embarking on an evening walk into Penzance, where we embraced the cooling sea breeze and used the opportunity to familiarise ourselves before the long day ahead. The following day comprised of an early start, made a little easier by the full English breakfast at the hostel, before disembarking to Porthcurno Beach. After spending the majority of the morning drawing, we made the short walk up a cliff-face to The Minack Theatre for a quick lunch and some more sketching.

After an intense morning, we were rewarded by an afternoon of free time in St Ives. We used this opportunity to sample the infamous Cornish pasties and relax in the harbour, before returning the hostel for an evening workshop about local artist Terry Frost.

The final day was, again, very intense, as we managed to visit three galleries in the morning. This included Barbara Hepworth's Tate Gallery, where we did some further studies of her work. That afternoon we were then taken to Lanyon's Quoit, named after artist Peter Lanyon, where we recreated several gestural drawings in the style of Lanyon.

To conclude the weekend, we made a visit to the local cinema in Penzance. It proved a very popular choice, with only a few staying behind to watch Strictly! The weekend passed fleetingly due to the volume of activities and work, but has certainly enhanced our understanding of the Cornish Art Movement that took place post-war, and it will be imperative for our work throughout the rest of the AS course.

Hannah Scholes, L6D

# Art Trip to London

At the end of October, a group of upper sixth art students went to London to visit the Royal Academy of Arts' retrospective on the work of Anselm Kiefer. This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view this exhibition, which is the most significant display of the artist's work ever held in the UK. It presented work from across his 40-year career, including newly commissioned pieces which had been created specifically for the exhibition.



Kiefer was born in Germany in 1945, growing up amidst the remnants of the Nazi regime. His experiences of Germany's refusal to acknowledge its dark past is confronted in his work, as he maintains that the past is a key aspect in enabling progress into the future. Consequently, Kiefer deals with German history and mythology, as well as drawing upon literature, philosophy and the human experience. He explores the concepts of time, memory and existence through his art.

The nature of his work, in terms of scale, media and subject matter, can only be truly appreciated first-hand. Visitors witness the wide-range of Kiefer's work, including paintings, drawings and sculpture, informing them of the ways in which his work has developed over the years. Therefore, it is apparent that everyone gained a lot from this visit; Kiefer's work is inspiring and will feed into the personal projects which the upper sixth artists are undertaking at the moment. Alongside visiting the Royal Academy, students were also given the opportunity to visit the National Gallery, as well as catching a glimpse of sights such as Trafalgar Square, Downing Street and the Houses of Parliament. It was without doubt an eventful day, with everyone agreeing that it was well worth the early start.

Sophie Veitch, U6F





# Bienvenue à Paris!

**The art trip to Paris has become a renowned part of the A2 course, and there was building excitement as the date for departure grew nearer.**

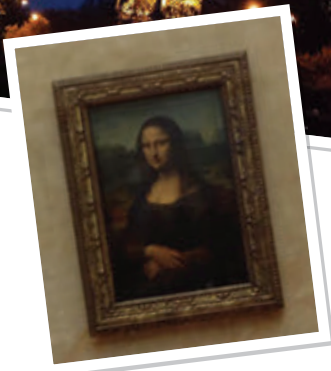
Despite an early start of 5.30am, everyone was in high spirits and eager to reach the French capital. There was no time for rest, as we headed straight-away to the Picasso Museum to kick-start our whistle-stop tour. The newly-opened museum (as of 25th October 2014) had been closed for five years for major renovation work, and now displays an extensive collection of Picasso's work, spanning the entirety of his lifetime.

This was the first gallery of many, as we visited five further galleries over the next couple of days, including the Louvre, the Pompidou Centre, the Museum of Modern Art, the Orangerie and the Musée d'Orsay. A view of the Mona Lisa at the Louvre was a must; however a favourite for many was the Pompidou Centre. The unusual architecture of the building provided incredible views over the roof-tops of Paris as the sun set, with the twilight providing a perfect opportunity for photography. In addition, its exhibitions of contemporary art, such as the abstract expressionist work of the last century, linked to much of the work that students are currently studying.

This is also true of the visit to the Orangerie; many of the students are looking at the work of Monet in their respective projects, thus a first-hand experience of viewing Monet's Water Lilies was particularly inspiring, with regard to their large-scale and vibrant colours. However, the trip was not limited to the extent of the art galleries; a boat trip down the Seine showed off the major sights, such as the Notre Dame and the Bridge of Locks, and a trip up the Eiffel Tower granted a view of the entirety of Paris, lit up by night. We travelled between sights by foot or on the metro, exposing the diversity of the city, from the widespread street art to the leafy, tree-lined avenues.

Paris' reputation as the "city of art" lends itself perfectly to the personal projects which the upper-sixth students are undertaking at the moment; the city dominated the art world in the 19th and early 20th centuries, producing the likes of Monet, Renoir and Degas. It witnessed the birth of Impressionism and today hosts numerous world famous art galleries, with many priceless pieces. It was undoubtedly a very useful and interesting trip, which was really enjoyed by all.

**Sophie Veitch, U6F**



## French Exchange 2014

**At midnight on Saturday 25th October a group of forty students from the fourth year and lower-sixth set off from Ripon to meet their new families in the Charente-Maritime region in France. There was a mixture of excitement and nerves as we arrived at the school, Pont l'Abbaye d'Arnoult, where our exchanges were waiting to greet us and welcome us into their homes. After a very long coach journey we were shown straight to our bedrooms for an early night. The next three days were spent with our families exploring the area. The weather was consistently warm so there were various excursions to the coast, as well as shopping in Bordeaux, La Rochelle and Rochefort. We were glad to meet up with the other English students and their exchanges in the nearby city of Saintes to share stories of the past few days in our own language!**

After a fun game of bowling, with the English students competing against their French exchanges, we went back to our homes for the next three days. This time was spent trying French cuisine, visiting local tourist attractions, chatting to our families and enjoying a relaxed French lifestyle that I'm sure we could all get used to! On our final day we went to school with our exchange for half a day which was interesting, especially for those students who were in a Spanish lesson that was being taught in French! For the rest of the day we visited a nearby limestone sculpture park and a beautiful chateau, with typical French gardens, which was a good way to end the trip.

The next morning, after teary goodbyes, the coach set off from France to bring us all back to Ripon ready for school the next day. All the students thoroughly enjoyed the trip, who not only improved their French but also experienced a different culture and made new friends. Emily Martin, a sixth form student, said the exchange was "amazing, a unique opportunity to really get to know someone from another country and become good friends". We are certainly looking forward to the second part of the exchange in April when our exchanges come over to England, but until then, 'Au revoir!'

**Helena Aksamit-Hollingworth, L6D**

# RGS and Gender Equality

If you went on the internet or any social media site on the 20th September, then you probably noticed that there was one thing everyone seemed to be talking about. Emma Watson's speech for the HeForShe campaign at United Nations Headquarters took the world by storm for the simple reason that it took a different approach to many of the speeches that have gone before it by being addressed to men. The actress, who is also the UN Women's Goodwill Ambassador, spoke about the idea that "feminism" has become synonymous with "man hating" and proposed that gender inequality is an issue that affects both sexes, inviting men to come forward and take a stand against the stereotypes that hold them back too.

The HeForShe campaign describes itself as "solidarity movement for gender equality developed by UN Women to engage men and boys as advocates and agents of change for the achievement of gender equality and women's rights." Since the speech was made, over 180,000 men across the globe have pledged their allegiance with some well-known faces such as Barack Obama, Tom Hiddleston, Matt Damon, David Tennant and Russell Crowe taking to social media to show their support too; between the 20th September and 2nd October there were a phenomenal 1.1 million HeForShe tweets from 750,000 different users, reaching 1.2 billion unique Twitter users.

RGS has also seen the creation of its own Feminist Society which is not only enthusiastically led by students and attended by both sexes, but is working to educate the school on the true meaning of feminism and discusses the issues both sexes face with gender stereotyping and inequality. Their aim is for everyone to leave the school with an open mind and greater understanding of this sociological movement.

The serendipity of it is though that it links in perfectly with this year's charity for Charity Week. The Batonga Foundation works in Mali, Benin, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and Cameroon with the aim of empowering young women and girls in Africa through secondary school and higher education. They aim to remove the obstacles that prevent or discourage girls from attending school so that they can take the lead in transforming Africa. This empowerment of women is the first step in creating equality in Africa which in turn will help reduce the birth rate and the spread of diseases such as HIV/AIDS whilst demonstrating the importance of educating women.

Whilst this speech is only part of the long road to gender equality, the ripple effect it has had on the world and indeed our own school will continue. It has opened the eyes of many and is a chance to take another significant step forward. So, as Emma Watson so aptly put it, "I am inviting you to step forward to be seen and to ask yourself, 'If not me, who? If not now, when?'"

Hannah Moss, U6F.

# The Jenny Unwin Appeal

In July, Jenny Unwin was involved in a horrific accident as she cycled home from work. The accident left Jenny paralysed from the chest down. Months of rehabilitation then ensued at Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield. Jenny will require three wheelchairs (preferably purple!) at a cost of £4500 each. Various fundraising events are taking place arranged by Jenny's friends and co-ordinated by Pam Dyson from Cascade's Garden Centre.

Within a couple of weeks of the accident Jenny sent me an email telling me that she wanted to become a Paralympian, such is her bravery and determination. The PE department arranged a bagpack at Morrisons in Ripon one Sunday and eighty-one students turned up on the day, packing bags and chatting with members of the public. So moved was she by Jenny's plight, one lady went straight to the cash machine and withdrew £50 and put it straight in the collection bucket.



I have done countless bag-packs in my time. I have never raised even half of what this event raised. I had hoped for £400 maybe even £500. To raise £1330 is just incredible and I was proud of every single person who helped out.

Thank you to Natalie Davy of Morrisons, Ripon for allowing us to hold a bag-pack at such short notice.

Mrs Mackenzie

# RGS News – Law Society

**A sixth form student, Theo Lumsden, has recently set up a Law Society for future lawyers to meet and discuss ideas. He has a personal interest in a legal career and wishes to share this with like-minded peers.**

Various guest speakers have already shared their knowledge with the society and Theo hopes that members can 'dive into the intricacy of a law career' and be inspired to 'pursue further studies in law', whether that be at university or as part of wider reading. Members of the society are also involved in the Citizenship Foundation's Mock Trial Competition to be held at Leeds Crown Court at the end of November. This is an invaluable experience to take part in the process of a legal trial in a variety of roles to gain confidence, participate in teamwork and learn communication skills whilst competing against other local schools.

In October, the group attended a mock tribunal performed by Raworths Solicitors at Harrogate Theatre, which provided an opportunity to witness the process of a legal trial and explore a range of roles in preparation for the competition. The students thoroughly enjoyed this trip and were able to get their first taste of the role of a barrister or solicitor.

Overall, the Law Society has had a successful start to the year and we look forward to the future for our RGS lawyers!

Helena Aksamit-Hollingworth, L6D.



# Costa Rica & Nicaragua 2014

On the morning of Sunday 13th July fifty-three pupils, five staff and three expedition leaders gathered in the main school hall to make final preparations, after two years of hard work and planning, for an exciting month in Central America. Having completed a thorough check of equipment and paperwork and a series of staff and team meetings, we left our rucksacks and backpacks in a safe place to pick up for our very early coach journey to Manchester the next morning. We returned home to enjoy a farewell meal with loved ones, watch the World Cup Final and try to catch a few hours' sleep in a comfortable bed.

All three teams flew initially to Miami in Florida and there we split up, with two teams heading for Managua in Nicaragua and one going to San Jose in Costa Rica. Here are three pupils' perspectives on three of the key expedition phases.

## Trekking

Our acclimatisation trek was on the beautiful volcanic Ometepe Island. We made our way there by bus from our lodge in the old Hispanic cathedral city of Granada to the ferry port of Rivas. Our island hostel was just ten metres from the beach and fresh water of Lake Nicaragua. Sitting on the verandah in the evening, we had a great view of the northern face of Volcán Maderas and a stunning tropical lightning show.

The next morning after a hearty breakfast we had our first taste of trekking, setting off early just after sunrise at 6am to climb from sea level to the top of a 4,573m volcano (taller than Ben Nevis). This was a serious trek, especially when the temperature and humidity rose and the path got steeper! The noise of the howler monkeys echoed all around the hillside and three quarters of the way up we entered a cloud forest. Our pathway became very muddy, so getting our footing was a very difficult task. Reaching the top of this extinct volcano was an immense achievement and we were rewarded with an eerie view of its misty green lagoon. We then descended via a very steep and slippery slope. A hasty descent down the volcano saw us return to the hostel just before sunset - this had been a rewarding warm-

up trek of some twelve hours! We got changed and headed into Lake Nicaragua for a relaxing dip and witnessed a truly amazing sight; the sun was setting, there was a tropical storm brewing and a full moon reflected on the silvery lake - a wonderful way to end a day to remember.

Our main trek was in the tropical jungle of the Osa Peninsula in south-western Costa Rica. We knew it was going to be a challenging trek and we spent the day before packing our rucksacks with the food we would need for eleven meals. Each day we set off at 7.30am to avoid walking in the heat of the day. The first day was the worst as we were carrying the most food and we set off late so we ended up walking in heat of the day. We also did some serious climbing, walking about 10 miles in total. It really sapped our strength but our team pulled through and we got to a jungle lodge at about 2.30pm.

On the second day we were given a briefing about snakes and how to avoid any contact with them, especially the Fer-der-Lance one of the most venomous snakes in the world. We then saw two of them in the space of about half an hour! The third day was a real challenge to our stamina as we walked for seven hours, five of them uphill but the good news was that our back packs were getting lighter! Reaching an old abandoned gold miners' lodge, we all felt a real sense of achievement. On our fourth day, we followed a river valley which descended from the jungle hill

top and along the way we met some gold prospectors who showed us how to pan for gold. We stopped for lunch next to a beautiful waterfall and enjoyed our staple lunch of corn wraps, sweet corn and chicken. Our epic jungle trek concluded when we arrived on the remote Pacific beach at Carate. The trek was probably my favourite part of the whole expedition. It really brought the team together

and gave everyone a chance to see what they were really capable of away from home and outside their comfort zones.

**Joel Thornton (Team 3)**

## The School Project

For our project we went to Pablo Antonio Cuadra, a school in Granada, Nicaragua. Many of the children were from very poor backgrounds so our help and assistance was very well received and appreciated. After meeting with some of the teachers and children we painted the window bars and newly constructed wall that we had funded. We also repaired the fence around the school creating a safer environment for the students.

After finishing much of the manual work we observed some lessons, which was very interesting and different to what we are accustomed to. We also did some teaching. One of the best aspects of the project was in the evenings when we would socialise with the children, playing games with them in the school playground. The project was extremely rewarding for the whole group and it truly is an experience we will never forget.

**Will Stobbs (Team 1)**

## Rest & Relaxation Lauren Langham

I think it's fair to say that although I was incredibly excited about signing up to take part in World Challenge I was also quite apprehensive. I remember being worried about living away from home for such a long period of time and being able to speak very little Spanish but I can honestly say that the expedition was one of the best months of my life. Our rest and relaxation phase included a lot of activities that we'd all been looking forward to since day one. Zip wiring and white water rafting through the jungle, alongside trips to a the national rainforest park, body boarding on the Pacific coast, and spending time as a group relaxing in hot springs were all experiences that made our World Challenge expedition an incredible and memorable adventure.

Spending a night camping on the Pacific beach gave us the opportunity to walk along the shore during the night in search of any turtles, which happened to be only metres from our camp site. Witnessing an 80 year old Olive Ridley turtle lay her eggs and return to the sea was a breathtaking experience, to conclude a trip of a lifetime!

**Lauren Langham (Team 2)**

## Reflections

Looking into the crater of a live volcano, relaxing on a Pacific beach, eating some of the best local seafood in the world, getting caught in a terrifying tropical thunderstorm, drinking some of the world's best coffee, seeing the smiles of Nicaraguan school children and being invited for a meal into the homes of our project's families, sailing across Lake Nicaragua, shopping in the old craft markets of Masaya, dodging the traffic in downtown San Jose. These are some of the wonderful memories I will treasure from our four weeks in Central America. And so our intrepid pupils returned via Miami, Chicago, London and Manchester airports to the

cathedral city of Ripon for a well deserved rest. The fourth biennial RGS World Challenge Expedition was over. Ten teams, six countries, three continents in the space of six years. What a series of adventures! As St. Augustine once said, "The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."

**Mr Clarke**



# Equestrian report Countryside Live

**The senior team, comprising Lizzie Walker on Diamond, Olivia Howatson-Kerr on Mighty Mouse VT and Alex Nanton on Calisca, all competed in the Sunday of the Countryside Live event in October.**

Everyone performed well, despite the fact that they were on young and inexperienced horses, and the very strong wind and rain which made conditions difficult.

Unfortunately they weren't placed but it was an amazing experience to jump in the main arena at the Great Yorkshire Showground, and to have the opportunity to ride against some very competitive teams.

This was a great weekend for all involved and a fantastic opportunity to compete at such a famous venue. Our thanks must go to Miss Murray and to Mrs Henson for their outstanding support on both days, and to the Parents' Association for the purchase of school numnahs for Team RGS.

**Olivia Howatson-Kerr, U6E**



**On Saturday, 18 October the Ripon Grammar Junior Equestrian team participated in the Northern regional show-cross final at Countryside Live, which was held at the Great Yorkshire Showground.**

A show-cross is where you jump normal show jumps then half way around the course they change to more natural fences with logs and brushes next to them. Overall there were thirty teams and three people per team. We had an honorary member join Lucy Coates and I; it was a fantastic experience to ride for the school and jump in the main arena of the Yorkshire Showground.

**Eddie Henson, 2C**



# Charity Week 2014

**Each year Ripon Grammar School spends a week fundraising for a charity nominated by the current sixth form. This year the chosen charity was the Batonga Foundation, which works in five African countries to empower young women and girls through secondary and higher education. It was set up by the West African singer, songwriter and UNICEF International Goodwill Ambassador Angelique Kidjo.**

At a time when education for girls was not socially acceptable in her native country of Benin, Angelique invented the word "batonga" as a response to taunts she received whilst she was at school. The boys did not know what the word meant, but to her it was an assertion of the rights of girls to education. A vast majority of the girls helped by the charity would not be in school without their support and Batonga implements its mission at a country level by working in partnership with existing nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that have successful on-site experience in girls' education.

The actual planning for Charity Week started at the end of the last academic year with the school officers, and some very enthusiastic upper-sixth students, who worked hard to come up with a weeks-worth of fun activities. So, when it finally came around, it was amazing to see that all the hard work was worth it! Highlights of the week had to be the 'Lads Dance' on Monday, which kicked-off with a hilarious video between the boys and some of the teachers,



and also 'The Slammer', which saw some interesting talent acts, including a dance routine to "Hips Don't Lie" with some incredible hip-artistry being demonstrated by Joe Lewis, much to everyone's surprise! Other activities included a non-uniform day, the immensely successful Colour Run, Ed Johnson as rather tall first year in 'Are You Smarter than a First Year?', the 'Gladiator Duel', which pitted students against teachers, the First Year Film Night, the Man Choir - featuring Mr Bob, and, of course, the annual Staff Pantomime, which saw the teachers put their own spin on the tale of 'Snow White'. Each first year form ran a cake stall at break times and all lower-school forms organised and ran activities, such as a sponsored swim which raised a staggering amount of money. The week was rounded off with the Charity Ball which is always a great evening and the perfect way to end an amazing week.

Since Charity Week, those who have been heavily involved, have been given the opportunity to hold a Skype interview with Angelique, in which she expressed her thanks to everyone who gave money. She went on to say that next time she goes out to meet the girls which the charity supports, they will be told of the school's fundraising

as they like to know who is helping them. However, Charity Week is just the tip of the iceberg, as we will continue to raise money for Batonga throughout the year, and the gauntlet for next year has most certainly been thrown down!

**Hannah Moss, U6F**





# House Drama Competition 2014

It's hard to imagine Ripon Grammar School without our annual House Drama competition. The event, completely student organised, runs for almost nine weeks, climaxing with the four performances towards the end of November. The standard is always immeasurably high, with an underlying feeling of a passion for drama and house spirit running throughout. The plays this year were performed 20th and 21st November.

Hutton opened our night with their performance of Hercules, directed by Emma Lee, Julia Atherley and Olivia Howatson-Kerr. It starred Leon Hickingbotham as an admirable Hercules and the wonderfully, sassy Annabelle Blyton as the enslaved love-interest, Megera. Dominic Livesey, the chilling Hades, and Elliot Hutchinson, the ditsy but loveable younger Hercules, shone through as Hutton's newest assets - forces to be reckoned with for years to come I'm sure. The use of humour, coupled with a beautifully simple set, created a play filled to the brim with memorable moments. From the feisty muses to the expert piano-playing from Jessica Bryden, Hutton's performance was a sight to behold.



Next up was School House's charming Toy Story, a fun adaptation of the familiar Disney Pixar film. Directed by Charlotte Fowler, Ellie Lees and Tong Yi Chan, this play was as colourful as it was clever, with a hugely enthusiastic band of toys to entertain us. Tom Stringer was the patronising, extravagant Buzz Lightyear, showing us moments of vulnerability alongside the proud nature of a space ranger. Katherine Chatterton showed us the authoritative, effortlessly classic Woody, who struggles with the idea of being replaced as Andy's favourite toy. I particularly enjoyed the performance of Nat Ireland as the joyous Rex the dinosaur, who always had the audience in stitches. Overall, a very enjoyable performance!



On Friday night, Porteus graced the stage with their production of Aladdin - an act of sorcery that we still haven't stop talking about! Under the direction of Josie Canning, Ashleigh Messenger, Hannah Moss, Courtney Painter, Melody Swiers and Vicky Trayer, the audience was captured by the magic of such a well thought-out play. Aladdin, played by the always impressive Josh Belward, and Princess Jasmine, by the equally stunning Louisa Chatterton, truly stole our hearts, especially during their rendition of 'A Whole



New World'. Daniel Kane, the evil yet incredibly funny Jafar, was in his element as he stormed the stage, ordering beheadings and being a generally outrageous villain. Lachlan Nicholson was the fabulously blue genie from the lamp, whose stage presence was like a tornado of witty lines and physical humour. Brilliantly original yet familiar, a spectacular balance.



Finally we were treated to De Grey's 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe', a play which promised nothing but excellence



from the competition's reigning champions. This year, directed by Josie Morgan, Max Crompton, Bently Briggs, Alice Hault and Izzy Sykes, De Grey showed us how to turn a much-loved childhood novel into a marvellous new play. The set

was a remarkable feat from their team of designers, led by the incredibly

creative Ellie Wood. The use of props was spectacular and we were all in awe of such a wonderful production. Izzy Sykes, the White Witch, was truly wicked in both senses of the word, with a performance to fill the stage with both fear and admiration. The four main characters, played by Alice Robinson, Lily Millington, Harry Edwards and Will Penny portrayed a loving family, lost in De Grey's enthralling Namia.



performance as Megera in Hercules. The overall winning house, for the sixth time in succession, was De Grey. A huge thank you goes to the technical department, led by Sam Hart, whose help with lighting and sound spanned all four houses.

Morven Hall's impressive roaring, paired with Jacob Turner's unsettling nervousness, made for a really enjoyable production.

This year's best actor award was given to Josh Belward for his charming portrayal of Aladdin and the best actress prize was given to Annabelle Blyton for her divine

I'm always so proud to be a part of House Drama as it joins students from different year groups together with a joint love of theatre. Even the most shy among us can find a spotlight within their house and it's always so great to see a play come together after so

much hard work. Well done to all the houses for another year of daring, terrific plays and I look forward to what next year's competition holds!

Julia Atherley, L6F



# House Report



## De Grey House Captains

Josi Morgan  
Bently Briggs  
Francesca Boyce  
Esther Willis  
India Abbott

## Hutton House Captains

Emma Lee  
Ruth Yamoah  
George Foster

## Porteus House Captains

Amy Lane  
Ashleigh Messenger  
Esther Walpole  
Shannon Millar  
Tom Newby  
Heather Laws  
Courtney Painter

## School House Captains

Victoria Luty  
Sam Sladen  
Ellie Lees  
Emma Hartley  
Katie Marsden

**The first House event of the year took place during Reading Week, 6-10 October, where students were given tokens if they were 'caught' reading around school other than in lesson times. Hutton won this competition by a mere 5 points from Porteus, with De Grey and School House coming third and fourth respectively.**

A 'Poetry by Heart' competition was organised by Mrs Dring and Mrs Mars. Entrants had to learn two poems by heart and recite them in front of the judges. The results were 1st Porteus, 2nd Hutton, 3rd DeGrey and 4th School.

Senior House Netball was the first sporting event and, from the outset, it was a two-horse race. Hutton failed to raise a team and School, in



spite of a valiant effort, failed to score in any of their matches, leaving DeGrey and Porteus battling it out for the spoils. Porteus led for the entire final but DeGrey pulled it back to level terms with less than 30 seconds to play. A goal by Head Girl, Lauren Langham, in the dying seconds eventually claimed the victory. 1st DeGrey, 2nd Porteus, 3rd School, 4th Hutton.



Masterchef took place in all three age categories with each House producing a starter, a main course and a dessert. Huge thanks to Mrs Solden for accommodating these three events. I was amazed at some of the dishes the students produced. One second year boy said 'I cook all the time at

home Miss!' (Note to self, whilst sighing deeply, must make this a rule at home with my two daughters!) I would also like to thank the Parents' Association for buying six aprons and chef hats in each house colour for this event.

In terms of both participation and spectating, the most exciting activity on offer this term was Intermediate VX. This takes place over two weeks and is fast, furious and a lot of fun. Mixed teams of five score points against each other by hitting their opponents with a low-impact tennis ball. Points are also awarded for a catch. The sport's strapline is 'Honour, Integrity and Respect' and, with that in mind, penalty points are awarded for any player not raising their hand to acknowledge being hit. Thank you to Paul Hildreth of Global VX for refereeing the matches. Paul also coaches at the Ripon VX Club on a Thursday evening at RGS.

With mixed hockey taking place after this newsletter has gone to print and swimming sports for boys and girls happening in the last two weeks of term, there will have been thirteen opportunities this term alone for students to represent their house.

The biggest House event in the calendar, with the exception of



Sports Day, is House Drama. A separate report about this event appears elsewhere in this newsletter, but I must say that I

am in absolute awe of our students. How brave they are performing in front of large audiences, how creative the script writers are, how committed the whole cast is to attending rehearsals, how professional the make-up artists, set designers and lighting crew are and how absolutely wonderful it is to see an idea coming together after months of hard work. Well done to everyone who took part in this year's House Drama.

**Mrs Mackenzie**



## School Council

**The School Council is an integral part of the students' voice within the school community. On returning to school in September, each year group begins the process of electing a school council representative.**

Every form puts forward one pupil who competes against other candidates in the 'Hustings' event. This is where prepared speeches are relayed to their peers, who then vote based on the quality of their speech; this can range from the comedic to the utmost informative. The election process is completed when the candidate with the most votes is announced, so they can begin their two years on the School Council board.

This year there are seven new members, and we aim to follow on from the success of the Council last year which saw the beginning of the 'Eco Project' and an increase in the awareness of recycling throughout the school. We aim to establish a lost property system for the upper and lower school, as well as promote boys' football within the PE department, whilst addressing all issues that come up throughout the course of the year. The School Council is a fantastic way to get involved with the school, and I would recommend everyone who wants to take a larger role within the student body to apply to be a representative!

**Donna Castle-Ward, L6E.**

# Library News

## Autumn Term in (and around) the Library

As well as all the usual business of lending books, ensuring internet and subscription database access and providing a safe place to catch up with work, research or read, it's been an extremely busy Autumn for library users.

### Paired Reading with Holy Trinity C E Junior School

During their Enrichment time slot, Lower Sixth students have been volunteering as Paired Readers with Y3, 4 and 5 pupils at Holy Trinity Juniors. They are having a wonderful time working to encourage students' reading abilities and enthusiasm for books.

### Reading Week 6th- 10th October 2014

To add a little twist to one of our regular whole-school reading weeks, we held a house competition called 'Get Caught Reading'. During this week, staff who spotted students reading anywhere in school could award vouchers. The vouchers were then handed in at the library where they earned points for the reader's house.

Reading went on all over the place, including during break and lunchtime in the library, in the dinner queue, during Form Time and just before lessons started!

At the end of the week the vouchers were counted up and the results were as follows:

SCHOOL	380
DE GREY	430
PORTEUS	575
HUTTON	580

Here's what Aisha from 1C thought:

*"Get Caught Reading week, in my opinion, was a great way of making people read and even find a book they enjoy! It was an amazing way of getting people who don't like reading too much to grab a book and read it whenever possible.*

*The only thing I have to criticise is that not everyone was reading their book and just nipped it out as soon as a teacher approached, pretending to read. However, all-in-all I think it was a great idea that should be done again, possibly with a few improvements."*

I will take on Aisha's comments for the next time we hold this event, making sure the readers are questioned about their books before the vouchers are awarded...



### Bookbuzz 2014

Once again Ripon Grammar School gave First Form students the opportunity to choose a free book from a selection of 12 titles offered through the Bookbuzz scheme run by the charity, Booktrust.

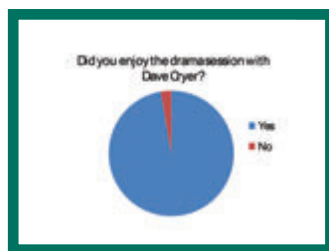
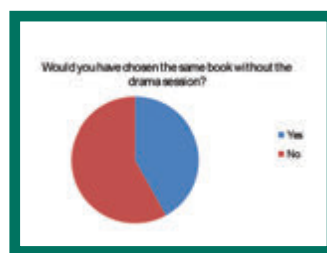
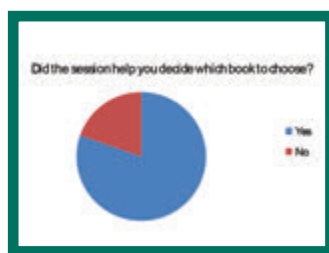
To help the students choose their books we invited our Patron of Reading, Dave Cryer, to run some drama workshops. During these the pupils rehearsed and performed short scripts based on the books.

The performances were fun and students were really enthusiastic, making this a wonderful way to find out about books that they might not normally have chosen. It also gave everyone the opportunity to work with peers from other forms and to make friends early in the new term.

**Dave Cryer**  
RGS Patron of Reading



After the drama workshops students completed short questionnaires about their experience which revealed how successful the sessions had been in encouraging them to widen their horizons and try reading something a bit different from their usual genre.



#### Students commented:

*"It was lots of fun and a new way to make friends across forms."*

*"All the books were made to sound very good."*

*"I really enjoyed the session—it was fun and enjoyable and helped me to make new friends."*

*"The drama workshop was amazing. It really helped me decide which book to choose. I'd really recommend it if you can't decide which book you want."*

As I write we are eagerly awaiting the arrivals of our Bookbuzz book order.



## 'Wonder' by R J Palacio

This year, for the first time, all our First Form students are reading the same book. They will be enjoying 'Wonder' during Form Time, in their Library Lessons and during English, with a link to their PSHCE project on anti-bullying. The book was introduced during Library Lessons with a chance to watch a book trailer and listen to some of the music referenced at the beginning of each section of the book. In the book, one of the teachers, Mr Browne, lists a monthly precept, or rule for life, an example being "When given the choice between being right and being kind, choose kind." First Form are being challenged to come up with their own anti-bullying mission statement - one per form group.

Later in the term in English, students will be taking part in a creative writing competition based on the book, which will be judged by our Patron of Reading, Dave Cryer.



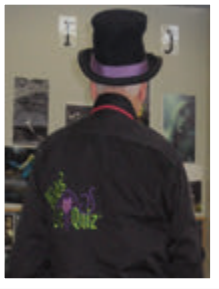
## Kids' Lit Quiz 2014

On Tuesday 18th November, two teams of students from RGS travelled to St James's School in Knaresborough to join 25 other schools in the Yorkshire heat of this year's Kids' Lit Quiz.

Kids' Lit Quiz is an annual literature quiz for 10-13 year-olds and heats are held in New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, China, Singapore and Hong Kong, as well as the UK. Teams of four students are asked to answer 100 questions on children's literature divided into ten categories, which vary each year. Examples of categories set previously: poetry, authors, titles, settings, characters, and nursery rhymes. Between each round there are questions for the spectators giving them the chance to win books.

If you'd like to try answering some of the questions yourself, go here: [www.kidslitquiz.com/sample-questions/questions-2014](http://www.kidslitquiz.com/sample-questions/questions-2014) to see some examples.

Although we didn't triumph on this occasion, we had a wonderful experience sharing the love of books with students from across the county. Well done to both our teams, pictured below.



## Visit by Chris Bradford

Well-known author of the award-winning Young Samurai series and new Bodyguard series dropped in to Ripon Grammar School on Monday 10th November to give a presentation to our first and second form students.

The visit got off to an explosive start when Chris had to bundle Mrs Dring off the stage to guard her from the gunfire that rang out! From that moment, the audience was hooked.

Chris explained how he had trained in Samurai swordsmanship before writing his Young Samurai series and as a bodyguard to write his most recent books, Hostage and Ransom. The audience then began an intense training scheme

in order to become bodyguards, including participating in an interactive reading to protect the President's daughter, being introduced to Cooper's Colour Code and staying alert to dangers, learning how to spot if you're being followed, discovering how to protect a VIP in a crowd, and testing reaction skills.

We were enthralled when Chris showed us his Samurai sword and demonstrated some of the techniques that would be used to defend yourself against the enemy. Later students had the opportunity



## Poetry by Heart

Poetry by Heart is a national competition designed to encourage pupils aged 14-18 and at school or college in England to learn and recite poems by heart. ([www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/what-is-poetry-by-heart/](http://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/what-is-poetry-by-heart/)) From a quiet beginning about three years ago it is growing steadily, and is particularly appealing to students who aim to pursue any career which might involve public speaking.

We wanted to encourage all of our students to take part and so held our school competitions with a heat for Lower School and another for Upper School, the latter to choose our representative to go through to the county contest for the national competition.

The heats were held in the library during lunchtime and the performances were wonderful, with all the competitors doing themselves proud. In the end the results were as follows:

- Lower School: Winner:** George Vivian, reading "Do not stand at my grave and weep" by Mary Frye
- Runner-up:** Molly Cushing, reading "Sea Fever" by John Masefield
- Upper School:**
- Winner:** Georgina Watkiss, reading "Ozymandias" by Percy Bysshe Shelley
- Runner-up:** Anissa Cook, reading "Invitation to Love" by Paul Dunbar
- Runner-up:** Helena Aksamit-Hollingsworth, reading "Mametz Wood" by Owen Sheers

Georgina will now represent Ripon Grammar School at the county contest to be held in York early in the new year. She will need to recite three poems by heart, chosen from the anthology on the Poetry by Heart website, one from pre-1914, one from post-1914 and one from the special WW1 collection.

The judges for the competition were Mrs Mars, English teacher, and Simon Edwards, proprietor of our fantastic local independent bookshop, Little Ripon Bookshop.

Mr Edwards commented:



*"Thank you for the lovely opportunity to judge the Poetry by Heart Upper School Heats. All the contestants were confident and well prepared and they had chosen some very interesting and challenging poems. I'm sure that the winner will do very well in the next round. As you know, Poetry by Heart is a great competition which gives pupils an opportunity to recite poems of their choice in competition. This helps them to develop the skills of public speaking and speaking from memory which are very useful in many careers in business, politics or the media."*

Juliet Fenlon, another of our impressive competitors has said: *"We had to select one poem from a given list and learn it well enough to perform, being judged on criteria such as 'voice and articulation' and 'evidence of understanding.' We all then performed our poems on the Friday in the library with a special guest judge, Mr Simon Edwards of The Little Ripon Bookshop. I must confess that it's a nerve-racking experience (certainly not helped by the fact that I left learning my poem until the last minute) but very enjoyable to hear everyone's takes on their respective poems."*

Well done to all who took part and good luck to Georgina in the county final.

to purchase copies of the author's book and have them, or their own copies, signed. There was a buzz as the talk came to a close and library copies of the books have been flying out on loan. Jack and Liam commented:

*"I really enjoyed his visit and his presentation on the screen. He got people involved which made it fun and exciting to watch." "I really enjoyed the Samurai sword. It was amazing to see a real one! I now really want to read his books, which sound amazing."*

**Mrs Dring**  
Learning Resources Manager  
Literacy Co-ordinator



# Centenary Remembrance

**Old boys and masters of a North Yorkshire school who gave their lives in the First World War have been remembered with the unveiling of a centenary plaque.**

Nearly 300 former pupils and teachers from Ripon Grammar School served their country in the war but sadly 49 did not come home.

In 1922, the former students' association, Old Riponians, purchased a field for the school in memory of those who gave their lives in the 1914-18 war, the boundary of which they marked by installing a commemorative stone.

In this centenary year of the war, the current Old Riponians decided to add a second plaque to the stone with the words Past Riponians Remembered.

Former pupil Claire Green, whose father, brother, nephew and uncle, who was killed in the Second World War and also attended Ripon Grammar School, unveiled the bronze plaque, which was made by her family's company HA Green and Sons.

In her address before current pupils, Claire said: "We gratefully acknowledge the part played by the boys and masters who served and lost their lives in the First World War; for their bravery and sacrifice which helped to give us our freedom, we will never forget them."

Student Shannon Millar, a sixth form boarder at Ripon Grammar School whose father is in the forces serving in Kenya, recited Wilfred Owen's poem 'The Send Off'.

Martha Barber, 18, of Thirsk, played The Last Post and Patrick Lindley carried the standard on behalf of HMS Heroes, a national peer support initiative for children of service families.

The service pupils' champion for North Yorkshire, Annabel Hall, attended the ceremony, along with headmaster Martin Pearman, deputy head Marita Murray and Old Riponians.

To coincide with the ceremony and Heritage Open Days, the school library hosted an exhibition of photographs, documents, memorabilia and stories of the school's war heroes.

Old Riponians' secretary, Derek Crookes, and retired teacher, Greta Hills, have carried out painstaking research into all those former pupils and masters who died in World War One.

They included John F l'Anson, of Thirsk, who was killed aged 31 on September 20 1914, and Frederick Leslie Dunwell, a master who was killed in Belgium aged 27.

"We have gone through military records, scoured the web and read through old copies of the school magazines to find out as much information as we can," explained Derek.

"Pupils young and old have all benefited from the sports field given in memory of those who were lost, and the stone and plaques ensure they continue to be remembered today."

*Left to right Ripon Grammar School pupils Martha Barber and Shannon Millar with Old Riponian Claire Green at the First World War commemorative stone with poppies bearing the names of all those former pupils and masters who were lost.*



## Memorial Service

**While carrying the HMS Heroes standard, I led all of the military families' children to the Old Riponians' memorial stone in the centre of the school field. As everyone formed a circle around it, a new plaque to remember those who served in World War 1 was revealed.**

The poem, 'The Send Off' by Wilfred Owen was read out then the Last Post was played as I lowered the standard. There was then two minutes' silence and the standard was raised again.

After the memorial service, I entered a competition to carry one of the HMS Heroes standards at the Festival of Remembrance. I travelled to London on 11 November to attend a memorial service in the Royal Albert Hall. This will be the first year that HMS Heroes has had a representative there.

**Patrick Lindley, L6D.**



# Autumn Concert

Thursday 16th October saw Ripon Grammar School's Music Department take to the stage for the annual Autumn Concert, allowing the students to showcase their musical talents.

After seven weeks of dedicated rehearsals, a variety of ensembles were prepared for an evening devoted to music, both performing and listening to the other fantastic acts that we have at the school. There was a diverse range of pieces, from the classic 'Idilio Symphonico' to the modern and somewhat frustratingly catchy 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams. (The brass group's cover of this summer hit had the audience shimmying along!)

The first year students also sang and, although their interpretation of African music wasn't quite so well-known amongst the audience, the number of enthusiastic pupils involved, as well as the sound they produced, was wonderful.

In addition to performances from previously established ensembles, including the wind band, we were introduced to new groups, such as String Trio, Flute Choir and the school's newly founded 'Man Choir'. This group was initiated by the Music Department's fresh and innovative leader, Mr Seymour, who was thrilled with the performances at the concert. He stated that the nervous energy created by the large audience enhanced the performances no end. (However, as a member of several school ensembles, I can tell you that I wasn't quite so appreciative of the anxiety that consumed me moments before I was due to go on stage!)

Although Mr Seymour is pleased with his thirty-strong Man Choir, he insists that "any chap that hasn't tried it should come and at least give it a go!" In fact, he welcomes new singers to all three of the school's current singing groups and hinted that he would be intrigued to mix the groups in the future.

Jessica Grainger, U6A

# First term at Ripon Grammar School Sixth Form

**'Are you glad you moved schools?' This is the question that I have been asked repeatedly over the last two months by my parents, family members and friends.**

At first I was uncertain. I went from a familiar school, just a twenty minute walk away, a group of close friends than I had known for five years, teachers who knew my strengths and weaknesses and a building that I could never get lost in, to the complete opposite. I had to face the daunting task of making new friends, a long bus journey to school every day, trying to find my way around various buildings and classroom blocks, as well as getting to know the teachers who would be supporting me through the most crucial part of my education.

Admittedly, on the first day, I did wonder if it was the right decision as I felt very much out of my comfort zone. But over the next few days it started to get better. I was introduced to new faces in my lessons and desperately tried to learn at least twenty new names a day. I enjoyed the engaging lessons for my chosen subjects; the teachers were passionate about their subject and set high standards for work from the start. Miraculously, I managed to locate all of my classrooms, occasionally with the help of my buddy or form members, who were all willing to take the time to escort me to the classrooms. I started to feel at ease in my surroundings, especially as my year was such a close-knit, welcoming group.

The following weeks flew by with at least double the workload compared to GCSE, but teachers were always willing to help and answer questions. My subjects were much more difficult and I certainly understood the 'big jump' for AS Level. It was sometimes hard to find time for school work, extra curricular activities and socialising but it didn't take me long to find a balance and I still manage to see friends from my old school at the weekends. I especially enjoyed enrichment, as there was such a variety of activities, and it was a chance to relax and try something different. It was a busy half term but all the work paid off and we celebrated at the Charity Ball for the sixth form on the last day of term, which was a fun event for everyone.

# Success for RGS at the 2014 R'n'B Factor finals

On 10th and 11th November, thirty-four finalists competed at the annual Ripon and Boroughbridge singing competition, the "R'n'B factor". Musicians from local secondary schools battled for the titles of Senior and Junior Champion, singing in front of a panel of judges at Boroughbridge High School.



Reigning junior champion, Harry Edwards, 3B, took first place for a second year running as he wowed both the audience and the judges with a stylistic performance of 'The Sun' by Maroon 5, and Jessica Parnell, 1B, one of the youngest finalists in the competition, achieved third place with a sensitive and controlled performance of Bob Dylan's 'Make you feel my Love'.

RGS also had successes in the senior competition, with Kirsty Arrowsmith, 4D, achieving a place in the top five for her rendition of 'More Love' by the Dixie Chicks. An emotional performance of Adele's hit 'One and Only' by Emily Reid, 4C, who was very proficiently accompanied by Mhairi Ellis, 4C, was awarded second place.

Thank you and well done to all the students who took part in this event.

Mrs Morpeth

So, during the week off for half term, I finally found some time to reflect on the decision I had made, and realised that the answer was easy.

Yes, I am extremely glad I chose Ripon Grammar School for sixth form.

At times it was difficult to adjust to a new situation, but on the whole I have absolutely no regrets and I can honestly say that this is the best school I could have chosen, not only for the results, but also for the inspirational pupils who are encouraged to achieve their best.

A new sixth-form student

# The new £1.5m Humanities and Language block at Ripon Grammar School



## Ripon Grammar School has celebrated the achievements of students past and present with the opening of a new £1.5m classroom development for the future.

John Cridland CBE, director-general of the CBI, officially opened the new Humanities and Languages building at Ripon Grammar School ahead of the Upper School Speech Day, at which he was guest speaker.

The new two-storey building, which has been funded by North Yorkshire County Council and was completed on time and on budget, has eight classrooms equipped with the latest touch screen technology, and a staff room.

Mr Cridland, who was educated at a grammar school and Cambridge University, praised the ambience of the classrooms as a learning environment. "The building only liberates the mind, it's only the place where great teachers teach, but it's a step along the journey to world class education. At the CBI we are on an export crusade trying to sell our goods and services around the world and re-establish our global trading routes, so to see a fantastic new languages building warms the cockles of my heart," he said.

## The end of the Autumn half-term saw the opening of the new Humanities & Languages block. It was a long-awaited necessity and a very welcome addition to the school.

With an open staircase and wide corridors, the new block most certainly has a liberating feel to it, which makes for a very pleasant working environment. The classrooms themselves are large, and can very comfortably house a full class of students. When asked for a comment Mr Bruce said: "[They are] a pleasure to teach in" and made reference to the light and airy atmosphere.

The new features and facilities of the block are certainly very convenient and useful. The touchscreen televisions provide a high-definition display that all students can read from anywhere in the room, and under any lighting conditions. It is a great improvement upon the interactive whiteboards and overhead projectors that remain in other classrooms around school.

The Humanities & Languages block is linked to the Sixth Form Centre, which is incredibly advantageous to both teachers and sixth-form students (though perhaps slightly envious-inspiring to anyone lower down school). Not having to walk so far in the cold or the rain is something I will always be grateful for, especially considering the distances we previously had to walk to get to our classrooms.

Overall, I can conclude that the Humanities & Languages block has been an incredibly positive contribution to our school. Personally, I will be very glad never to see the inside of a hut ever again.

Jessica Rutherford, L6B





# NEW Staff

## Miss Bennett

I am (one of) the new teacher(s) of French and Spanish here at Ripon. I enjoy teaching languages as they are the perfect combination of practical skill and academic discipline! I spent a year of my degree perfecting my language skills through studying and working in Portugal and Mallorca, and on the island of La Réunion. After University at Nottingham, I lived and worked in Toulouse for a year, absorbing the culture and language! I am a keen traveller and I also play hockey.



## Miss Clark

I would like to introduce myself as the new female Physical Education teacher; I began working at RGS in September 2014. Prior to being appointed to this post I completed a BSc in Sport, Physical Education and Coaching Science at the University of Birmingham. I then completed my PGCE at Worcester University. My main hobby and interest is playing netball; I currently play for Harrogate Phoenix in Division One of NYNAL and for the Yorkshire Regional League.



## Miss Kirkman,

Teaching for 7 years, teaching in the UK and a British International School in Spain. I graduated with a Geography BA Hons degree from the University of Sheffield. I love visiting new places, new cultures and I enjoy walking in the National Parks. I am excited to get the students eager to learn about Geography and understanding the world around us and how to care for it.



## Miss Nelson

My name is Miss Nelson and I have moved over from Northern Ireland to be the new Library Assistant and to help out with boarding. Before this, I studied Law at Newcastle University, and then moved back home to take up employment in an accountancy office. As neither of these professions turned out to be quite what I wanted, I am thrilled to have finally found a job that I love in such a welcoming school as RGS. Besides reading, I am very interested in music and enjoy adding to my vinyl collection.



## Mr Akroyd

I am the new IT technician for the school. Before coming to Ripon Grammar School I worked part time in retail whilst doing an IT course at Harrogate College. Studying that particular subject sparked my interest in all things technology related. This leads me on to my main hobbies consisting of gaming, building PCs and performing upgrades. All geeky things aside, I do enjoy the occasional bike ride round Knaresborough when the weather is fine! Although I've only been at the school for little over a month, I have enjoyed my time here and look forward to the future challenges that lie ahead.



## Mr De Cono

Between my earlier career as an electronics engineer and my current role as RGS part-time DT technician I have worn several hats in education. These have included: college/home maths tutor, learning advisor, science technician and teaching assistant - working with learners across all ages and abilities. My interests include lifelong learning and ICT. I also enjoy working as a volunteer at a local primary school.



## Mr Higson

I studied French and Spanish at the University of York which included a year abroad spent in both France and Spain. The course I studied sparked my interest in all aspects of historical, geographical and cultural society that I enjoy as much as a hobby as I do teaching in the classroom. As a result of these interests, I am consequently an avid traveller as I enjoy visiting new countries and experiencing different cultures. Alongside my main cultural related hobbies, I also enjoy swimming, playing squash, walking and watching classic films, which ties in with my background in the media industry before becoming a language teacher.



## Mr Milner

I am pleased to have joined the Physical Education department here at Ripon Grammar School. After studying a BSc in Sports Science at Swansea University I took up a role at Fulford School in York for two years and I completed my PGCE in Newcastle at Northumbria University last year. My main hobby is swimming and I am looking forward to contributing to the wide range of extra curricular opportunities available at RGS.



## Mr Seymour

Mr Seymour hails from the Red Rose county! After studying music at Durham University and a brief spell teaching at Sedburgh School, he moved to Worcester where he spent six years teaching in Grammar Schools. In addition to his teaching commitments, Mr Seymour had a busy diary as a singer, performing in professional choirs, consorts and as a soloist throughout the UK and abroad. Away from teaching, his passions include cooking, classic cars, reading and fell walking.



## Mrs Morrell

I qualified as a children's nurse in 1995 and spent most of my early nursing career on Paediatric Renal wards. When Emily and Tia started school in 2003 I took on my first school nursing post in Wakefield, which I thoroughly enjoyed. We moved to Bishop Monkton in 2005 where I started school nursing in Harrogate. I am a keen swimmer and qualified as a swim teacher in 2012. I currently teach a few classes at Ripon Spa Baths. My biggest swim challenge to date has been the Henley 'Bridge to Bridge' which was a nine mile, open-water swim from Henley to Marlow. I am very excited about being appointed to this post and making a positive impact on the students of Ripon Grammar School and their families.



## Mrs Keelan-Edwards

I joined Ripon Grammar school as Assistant Head teacher in September. My previous post was at St John Fisher's in Harrogate, where I was Head of Humanities. Prior to this role I taught at St Mary's Catholic Secondary school in Menston. I read Geography and Anthropology at Durham University before completing my PGCE at Durham's School of Education. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term at Ripon Grammar School and I am looking forward to getting to know all of the pupils over the coming months. Outside school, my family keep me extremely busy. I enjoy spending time walking in the countryside and cycling with my husband and my two boys. I enjoy running, baking and reading a good book.



## Mr White

Mr White is the new Head of Mathematics of Ripon Grammar School. After graduating from Sheffield University and getting his teaching qualification, he followed in the great tradition of younger sons by seeking his fortune abroad. First of all, he spent 6 years in Bulgaria teaching English as a foreign language and then moved to Brazil for a 13-year stint at St. Paul's School, Sao Paulo. While there he held several positions including Head of Mathematics, Head of House, Head of Year and Director of Studies, the latter of which meant that he was a member of SLT. He enjoys playing with his 3-year old son, cycling and playing bridge.



## Mrs McNaughten

I grew up in Buckinghamshire, and then studied Mathematics at Oxford University. Following this, I worked as a statistician for GlaxoSmithKline, initially in pharmaceutical manufacturing and later in logistics. After four years with GSK, I decided to train as a teacher and completed my PGCE at Durham University. Outside of work I am a keen (but not always successful) baker, and enjoy horse riding and watching rugby.



## Mr Weir

Since completing a PGCE at the University of Sheffield I have taught at Bourne Grammar School in Lincolnshire, Kirk Balk Community College, Barnsley and also in China. I have spent the past two years teaching A-level Chemistry in China to students hoping to attend university in the UK. I enjoy playing football and support Middlesbrough FC.



## Mrs Seymour

I have settled very well in Ripon and the Grammar School, having received a warm welcome from staff, students and other members of the community - Ripon is a very friendly place! I previously lived in Worcester, and taught full-time at Haybridge High School, near Birmingham. I took the decision to teach part-time so I could also study for a masters degree in Victorian Literature at the University of Leeds. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, painting, walking, watching films and going to the theatre.



## Ms Sutcliffe

I studied Mathematics and German at the University of Birmingham, purely for the love of both. After graduation, I travelled for a year then completed a PGCE at the University of Manchester. I took up my first teaching post in Cheshire in 1992. Two years later, I had the opportunity to move to Spain where I lived for eight years and taught both English as a Foreign Language and Mathematics at an International School. I returned to teach in Yorkshire in 2003. In my free time, I do as much running, swimming and going to the gym as I can.



# Parents' Association



**The last academic year has been the best yet in terms of fundraising for RGSPA. Over £16,000 was raised which is a tremendous achievement for the current committee and the many volunteers who assist at the various activities and functions throughout the year. A huge thank you to them, and to all those who support the Parents' Association!**

The new term started with a wine, cheese and quiz evening specifically for parents of any new starter in school, with the intention of introducing fellow parents to each other and to the Parents' Association.

Those who attended, along with the committee members, had a jolly evening with lots of laughs and witty answers to quiz questions !

We have just had our AGM but it is never too late to join up! Just email [pa@ripogrammar.co.uk](mailto:pa@ripogrammar.co.uk) for the date of our next meeting as we would love to see you. Most of our information is sent via email to the address you have supplied to school. In addition to the monthly PA up dates, if you check the RGS website you will find out what events are taking place.

## PA Purchases for students

One of the best parts of our meetings, apart from planning events, is spending the money we have raised. In the last academic year we have purchased two table tennis tables,

games for the new school club, buzzers for the School Challenge Team, materials for the Green Power Club, a defibrillator for both school and community use, House bibs and badges, prefect gowns, made a contribution to the fantastic Les Misérables production music score, and assisted in the refurbishment of the careers room. These are in addition to the annual funding of the school mini bus!

To pinch 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. We also need ideas for fun events that will capture imagination and cash! We have developed a form, "Your PA Needs You", and you may have been asked to complete this at a parents' evening you attended - we hope that you did. 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 volunteered yourself in some capacity!!

Other ways to help are by supporting the events that we organise. Our "Who dunnit?" Murder at the Manor was a fun-filled evening, with suspense and drama performed by Ripon Rowel players and, shhh, we're not allowed to divulge "Who dunnit!!" This evening raised £1,000.

After a gap of five years, an efficient, enthusiastic and skilful sub-committee organised the Midsummer Magic Ball. We were fortunate to raise sponsorship of various elements from generous parents which included the reception fizz, the magician, the band and the generator to ensure that we had power to create the delicious meal by Kings Caterers, with wine from Firth & Co at special prices delicately negotiated by members of the committee ! On the night, we had a wonderful auction and raffle prizes, and the excellent live music had

everyone on the dance floor. It was a fabulous evening which unexpectedly included unplanned-for pole climbing! This event raised in excess of £5,000, which was a fantastic boost to the funds and such was its success we are being asked what date it will be next year!!

*Special thanks to an amazing Ball committee which comprised Linda Aikman, Collette Coppack, Ele Hartas, Mel Lyall, Fiona Pearman, Alison Reed, Gaynor Verity, Julia Whitham \*\**

Looking forward to 2015, and in its eleventh year, the very popular Burns Night is on 25th January. Bring a group of friends (tables of 8 - 10) and come and dance the evening away to "Cobblers Jig" ceilidh band, enjoy a three-course dinner and toast the haggis!! Tickets can be purchased from Mrs Kinread in the School office before Christmas for £20 per person, afterwards the price rises to £25 !

We will be running two Astronomy evenings, courtesy of Mr Barker, on Thursday 29th January and Wednesday 4th February 2015. Details of how to apply, and more information, will be available from the PA page of the school website in due course.

Our cash4coins project is ongoing - please have a look at home for any obsolete currency you may have left over from foreign holidays or trips that you could donate - buckets are available in N2 and on reception . Further information can be found on the Parents' Association page of the website.

The committee wishes you a happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

**Alison Reed**  
Chair RGSPA



# Third Year Trip to the Houses of Parliament

**On Thursday 23rd October, twenty-nine Ripon Grammar School students got up bright, and very early, to get to school for a 6am departure to London. We then headed south on a five-hour coach journey to London to visit the prestigious Houses of Parliament.**

After a long journey down the M1 we arrived in the capital city, passing many famous places such as London Zoo, 221b Baker Street (the home of Sherlock Holmes) and the Royal Academy. On arrival at our destination, we left the coach and walked to the Victoria Tower Gardens, situated right next to the Houses of Parliament. To our surprise, we met the ex-Education secretary Michael Gove MP, fresh from his success in the Westminster Pets Contest with his dog Snowy and, after a few high-fives and selfies, we sat down to eat lunch. Soon it was time to head over to Portcullis House to meet our tour guides.

The atrium was buzzing but we had little time to 'MP spot' before being whisked underground through a tunnel which led us into the Houses of Parliament. All of us made our way to the central lobby where we split into two groups for the tour, and each group went to a different house. My group went to the House of Lords first. We climbed the stairs, crept into the public gallery and sat down on the plush, green seats. After witnessing a debate, we saw John Prescott and then we departed for the House of Commons. On sitting down in the public gallery, we watched a debate on 'the maximum length of time between general elections'. The final part of our tour took us to the Palace of Westminster and then we returned to Portcullis House.

Later in the afternoon we met Julian Smith, who answered our questions on his role as the MP for Ripon and Skipton. Sadly Mr Smith's session with us was interrupted by the 'division bell';



Mr Smith informed us that he had eight minutes to return to the House of Commons to vote on the debate we had observed. Before leaving, Mr Smith offered to come into school and talk to us about the General Election next year.

All too soon our visit to the Houses of Parliament was over and we headed down Whitehall to Downing Street. Staff at No. 10 had earlier agreed that we could go into Downing Street itself. Taking care not to get in the way of the BBC camera crew filming, we were allowed to stand outside No. 10 - literally right next to the door. We resisted the temptation to play knock-a-door run and just spent our time taking lots of pictures!

Our day in London came to a close when we made our way back to the coach, which was waiting for us at The Embankment, but first we had to negotiate our way around a Ghurkha protest, with some of us almost getting mixed in with the crowd!

Finally, we left London and headed back to Yorkshire. I think I can speak on behalf of everyone when I say that it was a brilliant experience and one I won't forget for quite a while.

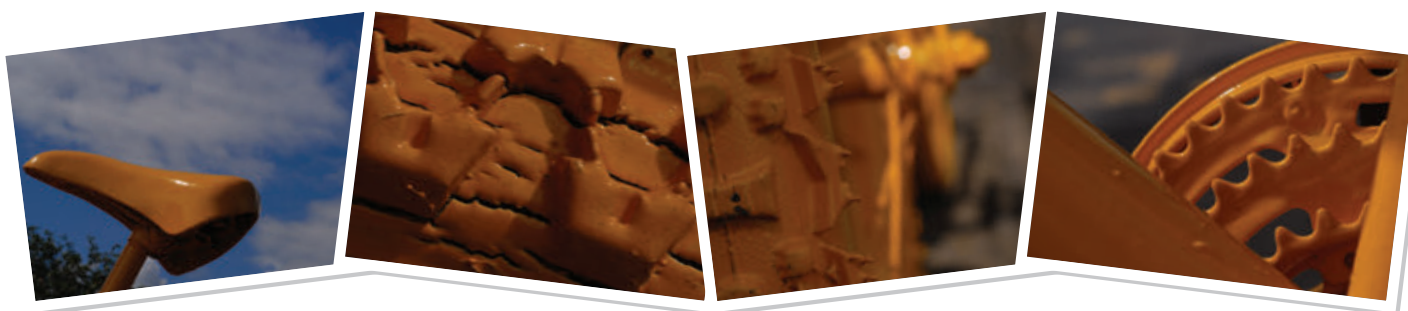
**Joseph Horner, 3D**

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## RGS Photographic Club

**Beau Roddis, 4C, entered the Yorkshire Trials Company photographic competition this summer, which asked for images of Tour de France yellow bikes in the Ripon area. The photos Beau entered were those of the yellow bike which we had fixed to the school railings.**

She writes: "Mr Davis had organised an RGS Photo Club outing one Saturday morning. The plan was to meet at school and then walk in and around Ripon to get some nice shots of whatever took our fancy. Our small group set off and didn't even make it past the gate before we all stopped to take photos of the yellow bike. Personally, I prefer the quirky and more interesting subjects to take pictures of and, to be honest, I was slightly reluctant. However, I followed suit and now I'm glad I did. I have to say the garish yellow bike, with its paint already peeling, and the backdrop of the rusty coloured railings it was attached to, did not catch my attention and did not, in my opinion, make for a good picture. Apparently I was wrong, as I won the "best artistic shot" with the close-up shot of the tyre.



# Report on English Speaking Union 'Mace' competition, November 2014

**"This house would require the National Health Service to fund alternative medical treatments that whilst safe, have not yet been proven to confer medical benefits above placebos". We are opposing this motion.**

This sentence was what faced a small group of sixth formers on a cold October morning, when they volunteered to be apart of Ripon Grammar School's 2014 debating team. With only a short preparation period ahead of us, Hannah Scholes, Anna Durkin, Helena Hollingworth, Donna Castle-Ward, Ben Pilling, Georgina Watkiss and I began to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of alternative medicine and the placebo effect. However, help couldn't have come sooner, when a courageous third year came strolling through the door with an incredibly enthusiastic smile on his face. Thaddeus Davey was the younger brother of a former debating champion, and the son of an NHS employee. Thaddeus was our saviour.

After several of the original soldiers dropped out, we were left with a four-man troop of which two would speak. We then began to work. With hours of behind-the-scenes studying, days of unimaginable research, and Donna Castle-Ward's smile, we prepared our chosen warriors: Hannah and Helena. Soon all they had standing between them and the big day was one precious weekend. Two days before battle commenced, the team assured Mrs Mars that they were ready for war against our rival in Harrogate.

The two man battle squad of Hannah and Helena, accompanied by Anna and I, boarded the banter bus and commenced our epic road trip through the jungles of Ripon, over the moors of the A61 and the plains of The Stray, on a journey to the location of our mission. We stepped out of the minibus, and gazed up at the vast structure that was Harrogate Grammar School's Sixth Form Centre. Bumping into Thaddeus on the way in, we were led upstairs to a room full of teenagers we didn't recognise, teachers we didn't know, and cake. You can probably guess where we headed.

We were soon shown through to the debating room and, after a last minute briefing from no other than Thaddeus Davey himself, the debaters took their seats. The war began. A young, knowledgeable third year from Harrogate set a high benchmark with a complicated speech

outlining why he (and his partner) thought alternative medicines should be introduced in the NHS. He was soon slammed down (metaphorically) by an outstanding argument from Helena Hollingworth, who delivered a confident and sharp presentation, providing a glimpse of what was to come from the stronger side. HGS's statistic-mad Head Boy

attempted to rebut Helena's display of excellence with a lot of numbers. After having both her 'points of information' dismissed by him, the infuriated Hannah Scholes was ready to put pedal to metal and destroy this arrogant debating pro. She rose out of her seat, and delivered a spectacular array of knowledge and evidence - there was nothing stopping her. Fact after fact was fired and the expressions on the HGS pupils' faces looks as though they were totally convinced. The Head Boy attempted to chip in but was reminded by Hannah's blunt yet polite reply of "I'm on a roll" that it was not his place to speak. Helena wrapped up Ripon's presentation with a brief and convincing summary speech and we awaited the results.

Unfortunately, Harrogate's team, more experienced in formal debates and on home turf, narrowly beat us. We are already preparing for next year...

**Report by Richard Langdale, L6**



## The RGS Medical Society

**The RGS Medical Society is for sixth-formers who are seriously considering a career in medicine. The main purpose of the society is to help each other when it comes to applying for such a competitive yet fulfilling course. The selection process for medical school is a rigorous and demanding one, with separate assessments to test your medical aptitude and interviews to fully evaluate your medical capability.**

The RGS medical society aims to set all of our prospective students up for this process as best as possible. We spend our fortnightly meetings discussing a range of topics from ethical scenarios, an essential part of interviews, to the most recent medical news. This helps us to engage with important medical issues which could prove to be greatly influential to medicine in the future.

Furthermore our meetings provide students with the perfect opportunity to voice any concerns and worries they may have, often ones we all share! Meetings are also a great time to share resources and contacts to help us all gain essential work experience to further enhance our applications.

But our society is not all about how to be a successful applicant. Throughout the year, speakers will be invited from many different areas of medicine to come and share their wealth of knowledge and experience with our group. The speakers often paint a very honest picture of an occupation which is often very demanding but also very rewarding. This provides us with the perspective needed to make the decision to fully commit to a medical career. For example many of our members are interested in becoming General Practitioners, and our first speaker will be from this field, allowing our students to learn more about this career and voice any queries and questions they may have.

A society like this is essential in providing students with the support needed to prepare for the vigorous application process as well as providing a group where concerns and ideas can be shared and discussed. We are always looking for new members and if you wish to join please speak to either Emma Hope or Lauren Langham.

**Emma Hope, L6E**





# Sport

## County Players

**A school's sporting stars are celebrating after being selected to represent Yorkshire in three different sports.**

Students from Ripon Grammar School have undergone trials in netball, girls' football and triathlon and are now on track to be coached and to compete at the highest level for their age groups.



*County netballers*

*(back row L-R) Katie Reed, Sarah Reed and Rosie Taylor; (front row L-R) Phoebe Senior, Jessica Merrin and Emily Reed.*

Netballing sisters Sarah, Emily and Katie Reed, together with Jessica Merrin, Rosie Taylor and Phoebe Senior, have been selected to play for the county.

They were chosen to compete against 240 other girls at trials held at York University for places in Yorkshire squads and will now play teams from other counties.

"We're on a development pathway which, as we get older, might take us to the regionals and, eventually, England," explained Rosie.

The Reed sisters are following in the footsteps of their mum Debbie, who coaches Ripon Rockets.

Ball skills of a different kind have taken 12-year-old Bethan Ratcliff to the North Yorkshire Girls' Centre of Excellence in football. Soon to become Yorkshire Belles, Bethan's U13 squad has played against teams at Teesside, Leeds, Sheffield, Everton, Liverpool and Manchester United.



*Ripon Grammar School's Bethan Ratcliff, who are representing the county in football.*

Bethan, who joined Ripon Panthers when she was nine, said: "I've always kicked a ball around and when my brother Luke started playing I decided to go to the club as well. Eventually I'd like to play for Doncaster Ladies or Arsenal."

*Ripon Grammar School's Toby Osman.*



Triathlete Toby Osman, 14, of Winksley, was selected for the Yorkshire and Humberside Talent Academy after trials held in Sheffield in which he had to swim 200m and run 1,500m.

"It means national recognition and the next step would be the England academy squad," said Toby, who only started training seriously a year ago on joining Ripon Grammar School and is hoping to emulate the champion Brownlee brothers.

Earlier this year he qualified for a place in the UK U15 championships held in Birmingham, then came in the top 30 in the U14s English championships at Donington Park in Leicestershire.

"I'm best at running, I enjoy the cycling and dislike the swimming the most," he admitted.

Toby, whose dad is also a triathlete, runs three times a week, cycles twice a week and swims four times a week, once in the pool at Ripon Grammar School and three with Richmond Swimming Club.

## Cricket

**For many girls, the cricketing season was a great success, ranging from club cricket to either county or regional cricket.**

The standard of girls' cricket is getting higher and higher as the years go on making it even harder to progress onto a higher level. Some achievements that have been made this year have been North Stainley Girls winning the Yorkshire Lady Taverners, which took place at Harrogate Cricket Club. We then continued on and won the North of England round. Scarborough was a major event in girls' cricket this year and the U13 and U15 both travelled up to Scarborough for an exhausting day of cricket representing their county. We played against other teams from other counties like South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire. Two of the North Yorkshire teams battled it out in the final after a long, tiring day in the stifling heat. North Stainley Girls won the overall league by winning all of their matches. The team consisted of Lucy Wicks, Lucy Kettlewell, Lucy Verity, Sophie Richardson, Emma Ward and Millie Simenacz from the ARGs. Both North Yorkshire and Yorkshire teams came out on top with the North Yorkshire U13 and U15 teams unbeaten and the Yorkshire U15 becoming county champions after beating Gloucestershire. The teams from RGS that played for county or regionals were: U13 - Millie Simenacz, Hattie Sowray and Sophie Richardson and U15 - Emma Ward, Lucy Wicks, Georgie Taylor, Lucy Kettlewell and Sophie Richardson.



## Badminton

**Recently, the U14 girls have triumphed in badminton. The team consisted of Sophie Richardson, Georgie Turner, Jemima Strachan and Libby Rickard.**

We won all of our matches and our final score was 110-53, playing 10 matches, each up to 11. Both of the singles pairs, Sophie and Georgie set the standard by winning both their matches against Nidderdale, along with the doubles pairs. We then went on to win all of our matches against St. Aidan's to claim the victory.

The U14 boys' team enjoyed the same success they are the Area Champions for the second year running. They will now go on to compete in the County round of the Center Parcs National Badminton Competition. Well done to the B team too; they finished as runners up in the competition.

**Sophie Richardson, 3D**

### 'A' Team

**Connor Eddleston  
Henry Exley  
Harry Edwards  
Alex Edwards  
Christian Cavell-Taylor**

### 'B' Team

**Zavier Wray  
William Reid  
Alfie Taylor  
Tom Senior  
Toby Saynor**

## Girls' sport

**Once again the girls' PE department has had a successful half term! The hockey teams definitely have reason to celebrate, after securing area trophies at the U18, U16 and U14 levels.**

The U14 team has qualified to the North of England round. The school was one of the eight taking part in the county rounds, but one of only two state schools. These achievements are a huge credit to the PE department and those involved in the sports teams. As well as their team success, star U16 player, Lucy Williams, has been selected to the North of England High Performance Assessment Camp (HiPAC) where she will develop her game with the Pennine Pumas.

Success is also prominent in netball, with Sarah, Emily and Katie Reed, Jessica Merrin, Rosie Taylor and Phoebe Senior, having been selected to play for the county.

Bethan Ratcliff now plays football at the North Yorkshire Girls' Centre of Excellence in football.

# Sport continued...

## Hockey Hat-trick

**Hockey players are celebrating a hat-trick after winning area tournaments at three different age groups.**

Girls from Ripon Grammar School won at U18, U16 and U14 level, which qualified them all to go forward to county competitions. The U14 squad have gone on to qualify for the North East round.

Siobhan Gilfillan, head of girls' PE at Ripon Grammar School, said facilities at the school supported the players' dedication.

"We do have excellent all-weather facilities but it's also down to the commitment of the girls and their willingness to practise. We have formed strong links with Thirsk Hockey Club, and we always aim to turn out teams to compete in these competitions, which help to build the players' confidence and skill levels".



*Left to right North of England hockey squad player Lucy Williams and Ripon Grammar School captains Ellie Black, Tamsin Cutmore and Kathryn Barrett, who've led their teams to area tournament glory.*

## PE Thanks

**The PE department would like to say an enormous thank you.**

To the RGS Parents' Association for the donation of four pieces of equipment for the Fitness Suite, including a treadmill, a rowing machine, a cycle ergometer and a cross trainer and to Origin Health Club for the donation of a Stepper.



## Rugby Report

**The year has gone well for the RGS rugby teams so far - RGS 1st XV have played some entertaining rugby, with fly-half George Foster showing good levels of creativity in a fluent back line.**

Excellent games against Yarm School have seen one win and one loss. Ermysted's are the only other team to register a win against the team. The 1st XV are already into the last sixteen of the Nat West Vase. Tom Stringer has gone one better than last year and has represented Yorkshire already this season.

RGS U/15 have played fluently with skipper James Willis to the fore but lost to Barnard Castle in the Nat West Cup, only finding their best form in the second half of the game. Lorcan Gallagher and Ben Payette have been big try scorers in the backs. The team remain unbeaten in the white Rose Rugby Series.

RGS U/14 XV remain unbeaten in three years and won handsomely away at the Grammar School at Leeds in the Yorkshire Cup by 33-24, only conceding when the players thought that the game was already in the bag! Evan Rees has shown up prominently along with skipper Ted Wainwright. The team are the hot favourites to win the White Rose Rugby Series.

RGS U/13 have played strongly, with skipper and centre Robbie Eames and Number Eight Ben Edwards impressing. The team exited the Yorkshire Cup against old rival, Yorkshire champions Rodillian, but closed a previously big gap to just two scores.

Billy Fletcher's U/12 rugby team have developed quickly. Caught cold in their earliest matches, the team have rallied well and the team have won impressively in the Yorkshire Cup and continue to impress with much improved tackling in evidence.

Full Rugby Colours are awarded to: Tom Newby, George Foster, Tom Stringer, Charlie Yates, Harry Lamb, Bentley Briggs, Harry Cleary, Andrew Braithwaite.

Half colours are awarded to: Tom Beaumont, Jack Baker, Josh Finkill.

**Mr Garvey**

## Netball Report U/14 Netball

**On a cold, wet Saturday in November, seven U/14 girls made RGS history.**

Having come runners up in the Area Netball tournament (losing to Harrogate Ladies College by just one goal in the final) we qualified for the county round. This took place at Ashville College on November 8th. It involved schools from Stokesley, Ryedale, Durham, York, Harrogate, Thirsk and tiny little Ripon!

Our first match was a masterclass, defeating Lady Lumley by 20 goals to 0. This allowed the girls to settle into their roles and positions. There was no question of taking it easy in such a match as goal difference was to prove essential in the final rankings. Our second match saw us pitted against Harrogate Ladies College. Revenge is a dish best served cold and how sweet it was to defeat the team that had beaten us in the area round. Sweeter still to beat them by just one goal!



Joseph Rowntree, previous winners of this title were next and went ahead by three goals but we stuck to our game plan and in the end defeated them quite handsomely.

We considered St Peters of York to be our crunch-match, and we were keyed-up and quite nervous about this fixture. We had heard that they had drawn against Harrogate Ladies College, so if we could beat them we would be ahead in the rankings. Again they went ahead. Again we pulled it back. Sheer grit and determination from the defence, incredible fitness from the centre court players and eye watering accuracy from the shooters, gave us the dream result of a 12 - 9 victory.

We worked out the maths! Having observed Queen Mary's we figured we could beat them and the same went for Stokesley. However Ryedale was our next game and they, like us, had not



been defeated at this point. In another situation we could have beaten them, probably easily, but this was our fifth match and I only had seven players so they all played every match. Tired legs, nerves, you name it, they took their toll and we didn't play as well as we know we can. We lost.

Massive motivational talks took place. Ifs and ands and possibilities - we could do this. We defeated Queen Mary's easily and then came our final match, along with the news that St Peter's had defeated Ryedale. It was all coming together. We needed a big win. We got one, defeating Stokesley 27 - 13.

Ryedale and RGS had both won 6 and lost 1. It was now down to goal difference. Greta excitement ensued when RGS were announced tournament winners and County Champions for the first time. We have never progressed beyond the county round and will now represent Yorkshire in the regional finals in January.

Thrilled with our success, I applied to the Parents' Association for a strip for the regional round for the girls. They agreed whole heartedly and the order was placed. Well done to Katie Reed, Molly Reed, Amelia Borchard, Jess Merrin, Emily Reed, Amy Mackenzie and Sophie Richardson. RGS is immensely proud.

**Mrs Mackenzie**

## RGS NEWS CONTACT DETAILS

If you would like to include an article in the next edition of the RGS News, please contact Mrs Patricia Hargraves, headmaster's secretary, at [hargravesp@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:hargravesp@ripongrammar.co.uk) View RGS News on our website [www.ripongrammar.co.uk](http://www.ripongrammar.co.uk)