



Tearing Down the Wall

Ripon Grammar School trip to Berlin as part of the A2 history course

Schools in Germany and Austria

Teaching English to the Germans and an Austrian Adventure, all part of our student exchange programme

Fourth Year Home Economics Trip

Eighteen students paid their first ever school visit to Betty's Cookery School, Bakery and Tea Room in Harrogate.

RGS News

Issue 40 Spring 2015



Photographs by Beau Roddis, 4C, which have been chosen to be on display in the Menier Gallery, London as part of the ESCR's Changing World photographic competition.



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Welcome...

Dear Parents

A warm welcome to this edition of the RGS News which summarises the activities of a very short and intense term.



Reports have all been written for the fifth and sixth form and mock examinations have all now been completed. Those students will shortly be going on study leave and the summer examination season will be in full swing once again. My best wishes go to all the students as they prepare for these very important examinations.

The work on the Johnson House extension is now well underway and a number of significant projects, such as the refurbishment of the School House washrooms, will be taking place very soon.

I have had the pleasure of interviewing sixth form students for school officer positions for the coming academic year and I must say that the standard of applications has been extremely high; competition will be very fierce. I am very fortunate to be in the position where we could choose many students who could do the job successfully. Next year's school officers will be announced early in the summer term.

I have been absolutely delighted with the wide range of achievements of the students this term, be it in sport, music or drama and their ability to organise their time effectively continues to impress me immensely. Our students are exceptionally busy and they work tremendously hard to make Ripon Grammar School the outstanding community that it is.

For me, I will hopefully be finishing my training for the London Marathon on 26 April. I am raising money for the Calvert Trust, which supports people of all ages with physical disabilities to experience the outdoors. My thanks to parents who have already sponsored me; if you wish to sponsor me, I have a Just Giving page, <http://www.justgiving.com/Martin-Pearman> which will enable gift aid to be claimed from your donation. Apologies for the rather impersonal nature of this way of fundraising but my donation will be going to a very good cause.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Easter and I look forward to an equally successful summer term.

With best wishes

M L Pearman

Yours sincerely
M L Pearman (Headmaster)

Prince's Trust

Each year a team of students from the lower sixth participate in the challenge of raising money for The Prince's Trust. The Prince's Trust is an excellent charity that supports young people who are unemployed, struggling at school or at risk of exclusion. This year the team is made up of Connie Lumsdon, Daniel Williams, Anna Durkin, Issy Gould, Vicky Frost, Theo Lumsden, Lil Hoskison and Richard Langdale.

So far we have provided a delivery service sending candy canes at Christmas-time which provided a float for us to fund our later fundraising projects. Our latest project has been delivering Valentines roses which proved very popular throughout all years. Currently the team members are processing orders for hoodies embroidered with the school logo and available in a range of colours, to be delivered very soon. We hope to raise as much as possible for the Prince's Trust.

Vicky Frost, L6A



AMP awards

This year's AMP Awards was held on Wednesday 11th February in the Royal Hall in Harrogate.

Ripon Grammar's one-man three-woman band, Backyard Bisons, fought off competition from seven other schools to take first place! They received great praise from the judges for their edgy songs, one of which was about a zombie eating their family, and their mature stage presence. Lead singer Emma Bloodgood (from St John Fisher) was backed up by Tom Willis who alternated between three different guitars throughout their 10 minute set, Alex Elvidge on backing vocals whose beautiful harmonising added a depth and complexity to the songs that few bands achieved, and Tilly Fallows who kept the beats going on the cajon, her unusual instrument and quirky rhythms no doubt catching the judges' eyes (and ears!).

Unfortunately, our business team wasn't as successful and wasn't placed, but despite that they performed the task set them admirably. They were in charge of producing "goody bags" for the VIPs, which previously were filled only with donations and business cards from companies. After months of letters, emails and negotiations they managed to compile a collection that included shampoo and conditioner, pens, pencils and notepads, and even a hoodie for each VIP. They were declared the best VIP bags created in the seven year history of AMP Awards.

All in all, the evening was a huge success and we wish Emma, Tom, Alex and Tilly the best of luck in their future musical endeavours! Hopefully, they've inspired a new generation of musicians to follow in their footsteps and compete in next year's AMP Awards, hopefully retaining Ripon Grammar School's title.

Christie Hall, L6F



Fifth Year Art Trip to Newcastle



Tasked with collecting primary source material for their forthcoming GCSE art exams, the fifth year artists headed to Newcastle.



Our first stop, however, was Redcar, where we visited an old coastal harbour. The decaying carcasses of the abandoned fishing boats there provided many interesting photo opportunities: from close-ups of slowly peeling paint to wide landscapes of the surrounding sand dunes.

After arriving in Newcastle, we were given time to split into groups and explore the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art and its surroundings. For many of us, this time was spent in the fifth-floor viewing box that offered impressive views of the River Tyne and Newcastle city-scapes. Others found inspiration taking photos of the Millennium Bridge, or of the artwork displayed.

The exam title for GCSE this year is 'Apart and Together', so the students were encouraged to keep this in mind when taking photos. Each student is now beginning to develop their own take on the

title, depending on the type of exam they wish to do, and the subject matter that interests them. The title of 'Together and Apart' is one that can be interpreted in many ways: to some, it could be in pictures of the bridge, which brings together places that are apart. To others, it could be a subtler connection: perhaps the fragmenting of an object that was once whole, or the use of colours that are usually apart on the colour wheel.

The Biscuit Factory, which was our next destination, is an art gallery in the centre of Newcastle's cultural quarter, housing fine art, sculpture and jewellery. The main reason for our visit here was the exhibition by Anthony Marshall, an artist who paints, among other subjects, beautifully colourful Newcastle city-scapes and whose work some students are making copies of in lessons currently.

Overall, the trip was invaluable in allowing each student to collect their own visual material suited to their ideas for their final piece. The photos will now be stuck into our sketch books, to give an interesting, personal collection of ideas and to assist us further with refining and developing our plans for the examination in the summer. However, as well as giving vital inspiration for the exam, the trip gave students the opportunity to see the work of other artists, take their own photos and engage with art in a way that is not always possible in the classroom.

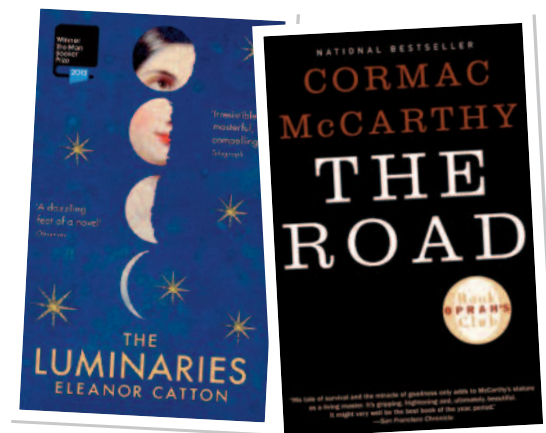
Katie Veitch, 5D



RGS Book Club

The RGS Book Club is open to anyone who has a passion for reading. We meet monthly to discuss our book, eat cake and vote on the following month's book.

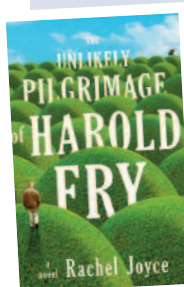
December's book was 'The Luminaries' by Eleanor Catton, a challenging but worthwhile read, about unsolved crimes on the gold-fields of 1850s New Zealand. This one took us a bit longer than a month to read, as it totalled at 832 pages long!



January's book, 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry', as you will read below, was a bit more manageable. Our February book will be 'The Road' by Cormac McCarthy. It's set in a post-apocalyptic America and features a man trying to reach the coast with his son. As you can see, we like to vary our choice in literature.

We hope this makes our group very accessible and we encourage anyone in Upper School to join! Reviews for our book can be submitted and the best one will go forward to the RGS News, as you see below. If anyone would like to join or has any further questions, please contact myself or Jack Burgess.

Julia Atherley, L6F



The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry was a fantastic book, and certainly one to recommend. It follows a pensioner, Harold Fry, who is determined to walk across England to be reunited with his dying friend. What appears to be a stale relationship with his wife is explained with every step of his journey, and we learn more about Harold Fry than ever thought possible. As he changes with the journey, so does our perception of him and his walk, to the point where we forget Harold Fry is only a character. His heart-felt adventure is full of emotion and a broad range of characters

that change his journey and himself.

We see a devastated view of the ever changing world from the eyes of someone stuck in the past, and yet still we laugh and certainly cry with 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry'.

Jack Burgess, U6F



The Road

Described as beautiful yet terrifying, 'The Road' by Cormac McCarthy isn't for the faint hearted. Set in a post-apocalyptic world, the novel follows a father and his son travelling across a destroyed America in the hope of finding a better life. The story depicts the many hardships they face as well as the small victories they gain, all the while compelling us to question what we would have done in their place. The novel takes a simplistic style and can easily be read as a mere story. However, it dares the reader to look beneath this simplicity to the more complex themes, many of which are

applicable to ourselves. 'The Road' is a gripping yet tragic novel that warns us not to take life for granted because you never know when everything will change.

Emily Vause, U6F

Tearing Down the Wall

There was mounting excitement surrounding the trip to Berlin that took place for the second time late this January as part of A2 history course.

Despite a 7:30am departure from RGS, everyone was in high spirits and eager to take the German capital by storm. After a long day of travelling we arrived at the hostel where we regrouped before heading back out into the city. We visited the notable landmark of the Brandenburg gate before heading to our destination, the German Bundestag (or Reichstag). The German parliament was not only an amazing piece of architecture in itself but provided fantastic views across the whole of Berlin.

The next few days were jam-packed with museums, including the German History Museum, the Topography of Terror exhibition and the Jewish museum. We also managed to visit historical landmarks such as Checkpoint Charlie and the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. The memorial was particularly thought provoking; indeed there was a maze-like quality to it that made you feel slightly uneasy as you walked among the concrete slabs arranged on uneven ground.

Many found the trip to the House of the Wannsee Conference most interesting. The conference is often mistaken to be where the 'final solution to the Jewish question' was decided by the Nazis, but in fact the visit proved to us that the conference was merely a formality at the



end of a long evolution of events that led to the holocaust. There was an overwhelming amount of information and historiography which built on prior knowledge that would be invaluable for our history coursework.

On our fourth day we went to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Museum, which was a truly harrowing experience for us all. I don't think any of us had fully appreciated how vast the camp would be, and even being there did not allow you to get your head around the unimaginable experiences that had taken place in the camp seventy years before.

However the trip was not limited to museums alone; remains of the graffitied Berlin Wall proved a great spot for photos; and a tour of the (1936) Olympic stadium and its construction under Hitler was very interesting. We travelled between sights by foot or on the U Bahn, and waiting for entrance to the Berlin Cathedral provided an excellent opportunity for most people to have their first experience of Currywurst.

It was undoubtedly a very useful and enjoyable trip that will not only have advanced the students own personal study but provided experiences and opportunities that will not be forgotten soon.

Rebecca Baldwin, U6C



Public Speaking

On 4 February, RGS took a team of 3 students from the fourth and fifth year to Cundall Manor School to compete in the English Speaking Union schools' competition.

The team consisted of a speaker (Max Morrison); a questioner (Patrick Moon) and a chairperson (Katherine Dale). Firstly, Max competed with the questioner and chairperson from Cundall Manor school, in which he spoke on the motion 'Foreign Ownership is killing British football'. Later on, in the evening, Patrick and Katherine went up against the speaker from Cardinal Heenan Catholic School.

He spoke on 'Nationalism is a never a force for good'. The atmosphere was tense and very competitive, but overall very enjoyable. The evening concluded with prizes awarded for the 'winning school', 'runners-up' and 'best speaker'. After a long deliberation by the judges Cundall Manor was announced as the overall winning school with RGS coming close second. Max Morrison from RGS won 'best speaker' and we all claimed certificates and gift cards as prizes.

Max Morrison and Patrick Moon, 5C



Debating Society Article

As I walked into the Debating Society meeting last Friday, I was met with the question 'is Vladimir Putin the new Hitler?'

This was certainly a thought-provoking question and just one of many controversial debates that take place on a Friday lunchtime.

The society was set up by Mr Bruce, an enthusiastic history teacher who wanted to give students a voice. It was designed to 'stimulate informative and inclusive discussion on controversial but important topical issues.' Mr Bruce has certainly been successful in achieving his aims after the youngest member Freddie Dunn from 1B gave his stamp of approval when he described it as his 'favourite club.' He believes 'it's something different and a chance to express views'.

The society is growing in popularity and attracts members from a range of year groups. Those interested in initially 'spectating' are also welcome. However, it is often difficult to refrain from putting your view out there during a heated moment. Sometimes Mr Bruce has to gently remind people to stop talking to make sure everyone has a chance to contribute!

The topics have been varied but a highlight from last term included 'has the ISIS threat been exaggerated' which resulted in a conspiracy theory involving David Cameron as a secret jihadist. Other interesting topics have included: should the NHS be privatised, is free speech a good thing and has commercialism ruined Christmas?

Apart from the educational value, the debating society also allows members to gain confidence in voicing their opinions. It is very useful for anyone considering a career involving public speaking or just for those who need an opportunity to get things off their chest. Anyone is welcome to join us, so if you are interested come along to SF3 on a Friday lunchtime at 1pm!

Helena Aksamit-Hollingworth, L6D

Sixth Form Students Visit Sky Headquarters in London



Mr Walker's A level ICT students were invited to Sky's Headquarters in London on 25th February.

The visit consisted of two parts. Firstly, a tour of the studios where they viewed live television programmes including Dermot Murnaghan delivering the lunchtime news. Students also visited the Sky Sports studios and control desks and watched how live television programmes are produced.

The second part of the visit consisted of student working with Sky IT professionals on developing a Formula One App. At the end of the session it was commented that the Ripon Grammar School students had produced the best ever solution to the challenge.

It was wonderful opportunity to visit a prestigious and well known organisation. Students were able to speak to work placement students and discuss career plans. It also highlighted the vast array of careers available in TV and the media. <http://www.sky.com/academy>



Bronte Country



As part of the A2 English Literature course, some of the upper sixth students have been studying the Gothic literary genre, with key texts including Marlowe's *Doctor Faustus*, Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* and Angela Carter's *The Bloody Chamber* – exploring transcending gothic concepts and the evolution of the genre, from the 1300s through to the 1960s.



As such, just before half term a group of English students went on a trip to Haworth, the remote town on the edge of the Pennine moors known as Bronte country; Emily Bronte and her sisters grew up and wrote their famous works here in the early 1800s. Given our close study of *Wuthering Heights*, the trip was extremely useful in broadening our understanding of its writer and the context in which it was written.

With regards to the social restrictions placed upon women in the 1800s, often readers are led to wonder how these sisters were able to achieve such success and produce such timeless works of fiction. Indeed, these writers initially wrote under false names, with Emily publishing *Wuthering Heights* under the pseudonym of 'Ellis Bell'. Even so, the book was not well received at first, dismissed as merely depicting "shocking pictures of the worst forms of humanity". It is clear that Emily Bronte deviated from literary and social conventions of the time, producing a revolutionary work which has stood the test of time.

Our visit to the Bronte parsonage, where we received a presentation from a member of the museum staff, informed us of the unconventional upbringing of the Bronte children, as they were encouraged to read widely and explore the arts from a young age; they produced fictional worlds and wrote stories, stemming from their extensive imaginations. The parsonage's establishment on the edge of the town was in close proximity to the moors; this wild landscape is a clear inspiration and integral feature of Emily's *Wuthering Heights*. This unorthodox upbringing was clearly influential in producing the momentous works of the Brontes, and a reason why they still remain critically acclaimed in contemporary times.

The trip to Haworth enabled us to see where Emily and her sisters grew up, in this remote and fairly unhealthy setting, so far removed from the industrial environments of the 1800s. In addition, our visit to the parsonage museum provided further information on a history of the Brontes, as well as various critical approaches to *Wuthering Heights*, such as ambiguities surrounding the origins of gothic villain Heathcliff, which bears a direct relevance to the A2 course; it was a very insightful and interesting day.

Sophie Veitch, U6F

Library News

Visit from Author and Climber

In early February third form students were treated to a visit from author Matt Dickinson. As well as writing the *Mortal Chaos* series and the thrilling adventure story, *The Everest Files*, Matt is a film producer who has actually climbed Mount Everest.

Third form students have been studying extreme environments and indigenous cultures and so were fascinated to hear all about Matt's experiences mountaineering, meeting the people living in the area and dealing with all the stresses of such an extreme situation. His tales of frostbite and meeting dead bodies on Everest went down particularly well!

Following a fascinating presentation in the main hall, each third form class spent a session in the library using what they had heard to inspire their creative writing.

Students worked in pairs and chose from the following activities set by Miss Kirkman, Head of Geography:

- Research and find a photo related to Matt Dickinson's talk. Print it out and then annotate it with mountain terms. N.B. Remember, annotation is more than just a label and it includes an explanation.
- Write a poem about the climate or the culture discussed, thinking carefully about the vocabulary you use.
- Write a diary entry or travel journal entry about the environment discussed, told through the eyes of an explorer or an indigenous inhabitant.
- Read the extract from 'The Everest Files' and turn it into a storyboard in 8 parts using the sheet provided. Each of the 8 sections must include an image and a caption.



Matt, Miss Kirkman and Mrs Dring were extremely impressed with the way in which the third form students tackled the task and produced some excellent work in a short period of time. Matt helped to select two winning pairs from each form, one for Outstanding Effort and one for Outstanding Work.

Those selected were:

Adam Griffiths and Fraser Dias
Kathy Hooper and Izzy Bremner
Charlie Haslam and Catherine Hancher
Harry Edwards and Jack Nethercoat
Cole Potts & Harvey Leak-Smith
Ralph Lockey and Sam Mansfield
Poppy Robinson and Libby Rickard
Millie Simenacz and Emma Kelly
Molly Woodward and Harrison Walker
Gus Smith and George Vivian
Pippa Tanner and Emma Money



At the end of the afternoon the whole year group gathered in the main hall for an award ceremony where certificates and chocolate were presented.

The whole day was such a success that we have already booked Matt to come back next year to repeat the activities with a new year group.

Mrs Dring

Learning Resources Manager/Literacy Co-ordinator

Paired Reading Scheme

Volunteers from the lower sixth have recently come together with first year students to partake in a scheme intended to improve literacy skills.

Young students who need to increase their confidence when reading are given the opportunity to meet with their sixth former twice a week during registration. The pair read a novel of their choice and learn new words or overcome a difficult word along the way.

This is a rewarding experience for both students; not only do the first years get the support and encouragement

they need to enjoy reading but the lower sixth pupils get the chance to interact with younger students.

Emily Martin, in the lower sixth, says the scheme has been an excellent opportunity and "gives students a chance to spend time together reading a book they enjoy". She says "it's good for the younger students but it also allows the sixth formers to gain new skills." First

year student Hamish Dunn says "the scheme is very helpful but also fun because you get to talk to your sixth former and learn from them."

We hope that this scheme is a success and can continue so that all pupils are given the confidence boost they need to enjoy reading.

Helena Aksamit-Hollingsworth, L6D

E-Safety

E-Safety is a term which can be defined as the safe use of not just the internet but any form of communication using electronic media. It involves protecting anybody, but usually children, from the threats and dangers of the internet.

Nearly every child or teenager will have access to, and regularly use, the internet. Therefore it is vital that people are aware of the threats and the solutions to the dangers of social networking. As students ourselves we regularly use social media and have a good knowledge of the risks and how we can protect ourselves online.

The E-safety policy we produced for students at RGS is set out into sections such as: Your Profile, Messaging and several more. Each section illustrates some of the possible threats and then goes on to highlight ways of resolving the problems.

The main idea of the policy is to outline ways to protect yourself on social media, and why it is vitally important to do so. One of the key areas to protect is your profile, as it is the area which can reveal the most about yourself. The policy clearly defines ways in which you can make it safe:

Profile

- This must be kept private in order to protect you from any potential threats
- When on social networking websites, you must be very careful to what personal information you disclose.
- With most social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and many others you apply private settings in the privacy settings on those sites. It is important to make sure you do this when using any social media sites to protect yourself.
- It would not be advisable to display personal information such as:
 - Your address
 - Family details
 - Your own contact details.

If you were to display these it could make you vulnerable, as people you don't trust with your information may be able to find it and use it.

- If you go into the settings on your Facebook page there will be a section entitled "privacy setting and tools." When selecting this you will be able to choose between three questions:
 - Who can see my stuff?
 - Who can contact me?
 - Who can look me up?

By setting all of these to just 'friends' you will be fully protected as long as you only accept friend requests of people you know well.

This is just a small extract of one of the sections and, although a lot of the information is very basic and easy to use, it will be effective at blocking online threats. The policy does not tell you not to use the internet, it just demonstrates ways to make it safer.

Jack Baker and David Bates, L6C

Fourth Year Systems and Control Sound Effect Project

For the third successive year Staff Sergeant Peter Coulson MBE kindly attended our fourth year Systems and Control lessons to advise students on the intricacies of bomb disposal and improvised devices.

Peter spent much of his army career spotting and disarming improvised explosives in hostile environments and was able to provide a sense of realism to our otherwise safe lessons. Our mission was actually to design and make an electronic training device for the Ripon Army Cadets which would simulate a small explosion or machine gun sound effect for a specific time period once triggered. During the previous two years that we have run this project the students have designed devices to help train army cadets in an outdoor environment, woodland, desert etc, but as Peter pointed out, many explosive devices are cunningly disguised as everyday objects hidden in buildings and triggered by

the opening of doors or by turning on lights. The emphasis this year was therefore to design devices hidden indoors, which ranged from modified door handles incorporating tilt-switches, light sensors, the movement of magazines or even to a tempting box of chocolates.

Peter attended several lessons during the eight week project which culminated in each student giving a short presentation of their work. The students themselves devised a set of criteria by which the 3D outcomes would be judged with the students marking each other's work; however, the final decision was, correctly, down to Peter. It was gratifying that we all agreed on the top five designs which were produced by: Oliver Butler, Oliver Bowett, Jacob Marshall, James Willis and George Stratford. Oliver Butler gave a most confident presentation, his laser-beam triggered device working perfectly time after time. Peter was so impressed by the quality of Oliver's work that, in an unexpected departure from tradition, he shared the prize money equally between the five winners. There were no complaints following this decision!

I am indebted to Peter for finding the time to help our young designers, some of whom have shown interest in joining the forces after completing their A levels.

Mr Mann



Staff Sergeant Peter Coulson MBE with the winning designer Oliver Butler

Poetry By Heart

I took part in the Poetry By Heart North Yorkshire and East Riding County competition in York Explore Library on Saturday 7th February.

It was a great experience and everyone competing was very friendly and supportive. I had to recite three poems to an audience and judging panel of five. I chose 'The Ballad of Reading Gaol' by Oscar Wilde as my pre 1914 choice, 'Wedding' by Alice Oswald as my post 1914 choice and 'Rain' by Edward Thomas as my centenary commemorations World War 1 poem. I am now through to the National Finals, which is a three day event at Homerton College, Cambridge at the end of March.

Georgina Watkiss, L6F

Games Club



Games Club meets every Monday after school in M1 until 5.15pm, playing a huge variety of strategy-based games. Every week there's lots of fun, including dice rolling, card laying, arguing, laughing and serious contemplation on how to win.



If you are a fan of games like *Risk*, or generally love the Sci-Fi or Fantasy setting, you'll probably love the style of games we tend to play. This year we're planning a Saturday tournament to find the board game '*King/Queen*' with small prizes for the champion and for the most sporting competitor. We are also looking at setting up a league system for playing *Warhammer 40k* and *Magic the Gathering*, with the possibility of entering our best players into inter-school matches and tournaments. Starting out with a club of six or seven, we now regularly have a selection of at least twenty students each Monday. The most qualified to comment on the club itself are probably those that have been at the club for the longest:

Gus Smith 3E

I joined at the very first meeting of Games Club, where there were only six or seven of us meeting each week and we had a small number of games available. Despite not having much we all had an amazing time, learning new games, helping to teach newcomers and generally enjoying ourselves. I would have to say the club really took off at the beginning of this year; we experienced a huge influx of new first years and others that allowed us to experience our first fully-packed room - and since then we have continued to enjoy ourselves and tutor people that come into the group!

George Vivian 3E

I've been at Games Club since the start and I still have a list of games I need to learn as people are bringing them in faster than I can learn them. *Magic the Gathering* is one of the first games I played and it has led to my friends and I meeting every Saturday and playing a game together! With the new funding this academic year we have been able to purchase some games that belong to the club such as *Carcassonne* and *King of York*, both of which I have played and both are really fun!

Oliver Parry 3E

I really enjoy Games Club because of the large variety of games that are up for grabs each week. The atmosphere is relaxed and enjoyable, plus Mr Ward teaches any new games in a clear and fun way. I love *Ticket to Ride*; it's easy to understand and different each time you play due to the huge number of different destination cards. The best bit is, even if you don't like a game one week, you can try a totally different one the next, or bring in your own.

Girls' Boarding House Extension

Despite planning difficulties and delays, work finally began on the extension to Johnson House on Monday 26th January.

This extension will increase the capacity of the girls' boarding house to fifty students. Simpsons of York Ltd are the main contractors on site, and the work is estimated to cost in the region of £1.1 million; a sum that reflects the high standard expected of the new facilities at Johnson House, as well as the extensive work that will take place.

The extension is not expected to cause too much disruption to school life as the work will take place away from the main part of the school. It is also expected to cause minimum disruption to Johnson House itself as the majority of the work will take place externally on the site of the new extension. Copies of the site plans can be found on the school website and within school, which give a visual idea of the extent of the work yet to take place.

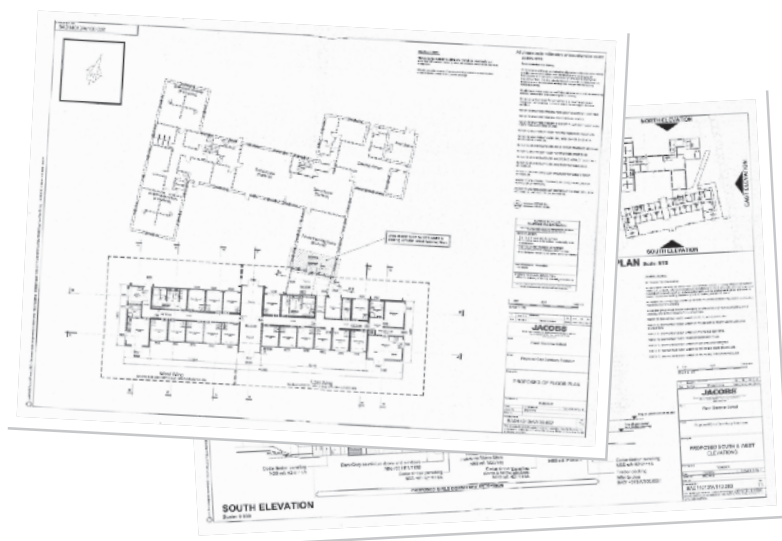
The new extension will include accommodation for staff, single bedrooms to provide a sixth form area and social space for the girl boarders to enjoy. The extension will be attached internally to Johnson House, and the entrance will be via the current prep-room so access will be as easy as possible.

The new single rooms will allow for private study areas for students, something that is particularly important to older students, who can utilise the space during both exams and prep.

The boarders are already looking forward to using the new facilities. Sixth form student, Lucy Mumford, said that "The new extension will allow the already thriving family that is

Johnson House to expand even further". This clearly reflects the whole ethos of the boarding house, which will flourish with the aid of the new building.

The entirety of the work is expected to be completed by July and will be ready for use at the start of the new academic year. As the popularity of girls' boarding is increasing every year, the extension will allow the boarding house to expand to meet this new demand and it will allow the boarding 'family' to grow.



Music

Students were delighted to perform to a packed Ripon Cathedral for the school carol service just before the close of last term.



All of the school choirs, wind band and the string orchestra performed festive pieces between the audience carols which were well supported by the school brass ensemble and Cathedral Organist, Andrew Bryden. The service came to a fitting musical high point when all the choirs combined for a vibrant and energetic performance of Bob Chilcott's *Where Riches is Everlastingly*.

It has already been a busy start to the New Year: The String Trio and Man Choir were invited to perform at a concert in aid of the Jenny Unwin Appeal and have received a great deal of positive feedback including invitations to future concerts. Two students featured as soloists at the concert: Sophie Reed and James Kitchingman. We are making regular concert trips to Ripon Cathedral this term thanks to the generous outreach scheme of the *Cathedral Concert Society*. Twenty GCSE and A level students attended the last concert of Romantic piano music by world renowned pianist, Ivana Gavrić; a wonderful experience and excellent opportunity. We have been inundated with music exam success; three notable results were Macy Raine's exceptionally high mark in her grade 5 theory examination and two grade 8 distinctions awarded to Sophie Reed and Joy Sutcliffe. Further success was gained by students at the Amp Awards; Tilly Fallows, Alex Elvidge and Tom Willis won the band competition with their band 'Backyard Bisons'. They will go on to record their music in professional studios, perform a series of concerts and headlining next year's Amp Awards.

The diary remains packed through until Easter. On Monday the 16th March we will host a school choir from Baltimore, USA. They will take part in a workshop and concert with all our choirs. This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear the fruits of a foreign music education. Musically Choir will be performing at the Harrogate Competitive Festival on the 21st March and all the choirs and string orchestra will be participating in the Harrogate International Music Festival for Youth during the Easter Holiday. In June, the school Big Band will be performing at the Northern Aldborough Festival.

I wish to thank all the students for giving up their time for rehearsals and for putting so much energy and commitment into school music, and also to the parents for their support in getting their children to concerts and rehearsals; thank you!

Mr Seymour

Team Apollo: Young Enterprise 2015

We are Team Apollo, this year's Young Enterprise team, a group of ten students interested in the world of business and eager to get some experience of what running a business is like.



(This is a good thing to put on your personal statement and an interesting topic to talk about in an interview, without a doubt, but the main point of doing this is to make a product that we all wished we'd had, and one that would be helpful).

So, we decided to create our own revision guide. It may not seem revolutionary but the crucial thing is that it was written by students for students. This hasn't been done before, which is a bit strange because, as students, we're the ones who really know what it's like to be sitting at home with exams looming and having to desperately fashion some way of revising that actually works.

Wouldn't it be easier if someone you could relate to had made a guide that gives advice about how to revise well?

So we did just that. This book contains all the ways that we could think of to revise, as well as some handy tips for parents, because no matter how helpful it may seem to say how it was 'back in the day', it might not be as much of a cornerstone to your child's success as you may think.

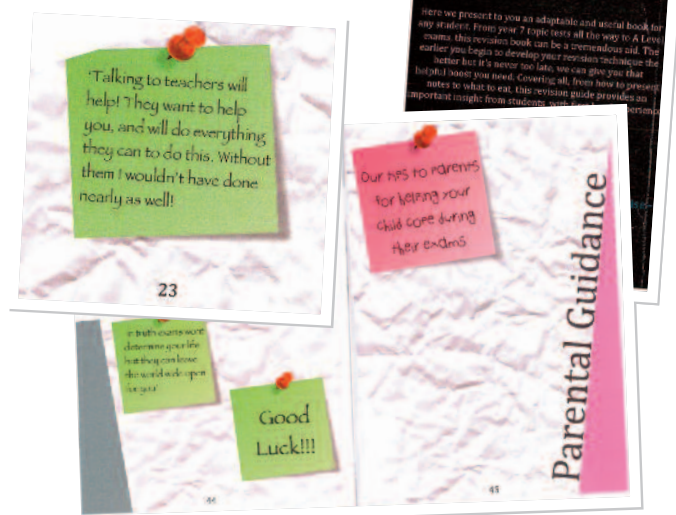
Obviously we want to be successful as a company but it's not all about profit. For every book we sell 20p will be donated to the Jenny Unwin Appeal, a charity that's very close to our hearts at Ripon Grammar School. That may not seem like a lot but it will add up fast and by the time that we close our doors, we hope to have raised a decent amount of money for Jenny.

So if you would like to order a revision guide around, then our contact details are below. We hope you get in touch with us soon. Books can still be ordered from N2 at break time after the February half term holiday.

CONTACT DETAILS:

apollobooks@mail.com

Matt Pimley, L6B and Lucy Mumford, L6D



Fourth Year Home Economics Trip to Betty's Cookery School, Bakery and Tea Room

On Monday 19th January, eighteen pupils paid their first ever school visit to Betty's in Harrogate. This was part of their GCSE Home Economics course and pupils were to be given the opportunity of learning how to making bread in one of the most prestigious cookery schools and artisan bakeries in Yorkshire.

After a short drive to Plumpton Park in Harrogate, which is home to the Betty's food emporium, pupils were warmly greeted with fruit squash and quickly adorned a blue disposable apron. Following a short demonstration by the course tutors, they swiftly focussed on making a batch of shaped bread rolls themselves.

Whilst the bread was proving (when the bread is left to rise), pupils changed into industrial protective clothing including the regulation headwear. Although this proved fun, it enabled pupils to gain an insight into the strict quality control and health and safety requirements



Fourth year pupils enjoying cookery demonstration by the course tutors

needed to enter a bakery. The class was then given a guided tour which included the famous wood fired oven. Possibly the highlight of the bakery tour was the confectionary room, where pupils could see an assortment of taps, where liquid chocolate was flowing freely out into a large vat below. Whilst seeing the array of chocolate and sweets was fascinating it was also seen as exceptionally cruel to some students who simply wanted to sample!

There was just enough time to return to the cookery school to collect the bread rolls which had just come out of the oven, still warm and smelling wonderful. After this we embarked on a short trip to Betty's tearoom on Parliament Street in Harrogate. We were led up to the Imperial Room, which is usually used for private functions as well as hosting their famous afternoon tea. Following a short refreshment break Dan Jeffries, from Betty's head office, gave the pupils a presentation on career opportunities, marketing, advertising and use of social media. We were made aware of how food manufacturers use a variety ways, including Twitter and Facebook, to advertise as well as the more conventional ways such as websites.

Luke Brotherdale Smith, 4A



A sample of what we achieved



Three of our pupils showing their bread making skills

Taylor's Challenge

In the autumn term 2014, A level Business Studies students at RGS were invited to participate in an exciting project created in partnership with Taylors of Harrogate.

Taylors of Harrogate are committed to engaging with the local community, in particular involving schools in their quest for exciting new tea and coffee products.

The project gave students the opportunity to replicate what goes on at in the Innovation team at Taylors and get a real sense of how ideas are generated and the importance of genuine consumer insight through research

The project involved students 'creating' a Research & Development company based in Harrogate trying to win a contract to develop a new drink for Taylors of Harrogate. The drink was to be aimed at young people (14-21 age range). They had to identify a gap in the market to base their idea on.

The first stage of the project involved all Lower Sixth Business Studies students carrying out primary and secondary market into the drinking habits...including all types of tea, coffee & soft drinks. This research then enabled the company to design a new drink that will fill a gap in the tea and coffee market (hot or cold).

Students had to submit their findings and a brief outline of their new drink to a panel of judges from Taylors of Harrogate and NYBEP. Will Andrew's proposal was accepted by the judges and he went on to represent the school at the Harrogate & District final of the competition.

The final, held at the end of January, was an exciting and nerve wracking event. Will faced competition from all of



the secondary schools in the Harrogate District and had to present his ideas in a Dragon's Den style table top 'pitch' and a presentation to the wider audience.

Will's idea of a continental style frappe drink was well received by the judges and he won the category for his age group. He is now looking forward to undertaking work experience with the Innovation team in July this year with the opportunity to extend this into the summer break.

Congratulations to Will for what the judges described as an 'excellent pitch and presentation'.

Charity Ride

As part of the ongoing fundraising for The Jenny Unwin Appeal, myself, Jacob Turner and Daniel Sharkey successfully completed a sponsored 50 mile bicycle ride on Valentine's weekend.

The ride started in Ripon and went through Boroughbridge, Easingwold and Tollerton to finish back in Ripon; this took four hours. The terrain was largely flat with the exception of the small detour to Jenny's house which made it a painful finish; we certainly knew we'd cycled the 54 miles on the return to the finish point at Ripon Cathedral!

Fortunately, it was a cold but sunny day with very little wind which made the wonderful Yorkshire scenery a pleasure to ride through. We raised a total of £400 to go towards The Jenny Unwin Appeal and are now determined to complete a sponsored Tandem Parachute Jump at Easter, also in aid of Jenny, which will take place in Bridlington. The funds go towards helping Jenny's mobility and making her as independent as possible.

Max Vesty, L6C



The School Council

This term, the School Council has been consulting on a diverse range of school issues, with some necessitating the review of existing protocol or the composition of a new protocol altogether.

A topical discussion that has dominated several of our previous meetings is the lost property system where belongings fail to be returned to their owner. Consequently, we are looking at the possibility of a system involving the accumulation of lost property being placed into a box, ready to be identified or sent to a charity shop if unnamed and still unclaimed after a period of four weeks.

Part of the difficulty of devising an efficient lost property system is the challenge of separating and identifying lost property left in our school cloakrooms. Therefore, we are in the midst of developing a new plan of how the cloakrooms should be used, for example by allocating each year group a section of the cloakroom so left property can be identified more swiftly.

Since the amalgamation of Ripon Grammar School with Ripon Girls' High School in the 1960s, it has been a long-standing tradition that the males and females have been seated at separate sides of the school hall during assemblies. We are now reviewing this tradition and recent feedback suggests that many agree that the integration of seating would be beneficial.

We are also looking forward to a Fairtrade Fortnight, encompassing the sale of Fairtrade items and the relaying of information about this charity. We are also looking to develop internet awareness throughout the school and are reviewing a protocol devised by some pupils of Ripon Grammar School which will be presented to the School in an assembly in the near future.

If anyone has any suggestions surrounding any of these areas, or has an individual idea to put forward, we would urge you to not hesitate in speaking to a School Council representative.

Donna Castle-Ward, L6E

Ski Trip 2014



We left for Italy on the Wednesday afternoon and all of us, including the teachers, were full of anticipation for the week of skiing that lay ahead.

Seventy two students managed to fit on the double decker bus and the thirty hour journey commenced. Spirits were high, aided by Mr Margerison and Mr Spiers' banter and jokes, as we passed through France, Austria, Germany and finally Italy. We arrived at our hotel in the Val di Fiemme on the Thursday night very tired but excited.

Over the next four days we went skiing in different resorts across the Val di Fiemme valley. Everyone's skiing improved, thanks to the enthusiastic Italian instructors who never failed to entertain. Each day we went to a new resort, full of challenging ski runs set in the mountains. We skied for around six hours every day and arrived back at the hotel in the evening exhausted and hungry. At night, we did different activities such as visiting an ice-cream parlour and an Italian restaurant and the teachers would give out the daily awards such as the 'Banter Clause' award and the 'Best Skier' award. The snow was not great but we all had our thrills and spills and the worst accident was the bus getting stuck on the way back to the resort.

After the week was up we reluctantly left the hotel and set off back to Ripon and endured the thirty hour journey again. As with the trip there it was long but never boring and we all arrived back at Ripon very excited after an excellent skiing experience.

Tom Mews was Skier of the Week and Lucien Wray had the best crashes of the week!

It was an extremely enjoyable trip and all of us have many stories to tell! Thank you to Mr Margerison and the other teachers for another great ski trip.

Rick Castle-Ward, 4A



Val Di Fiemme 2014 – Thrilling, action packed and filled with endless amounts of fun, the ski trip was again one of my highlights of the year. Despite hearing reports of a lack of snow in the Alps, we were not disappointed; after taking a bus and three chairlifts, we found a winter wonderland. Not only was the skiing amazing but the instructors were too and great progress was made by all the skiers. All the staff impressed us with their skiing antics which, along with the copious amounts of Italian food, helped to make it such a memorable trip.

Henry Calvert, 4A

Parents' Association

Firstly, thank you to all parents for supporting our recent fund- raising events. The Murder Mystery and Festive Food & Flower events were highly entertaining evenings, and Burns' Night was equally successful with over one-hundred people enjoying delicious food, followed by dancing to 'Cobblers jig'.

As always these events are successful because of the generosity of the parents who donate their time, various elements of the menu and raffle prizes. We have also enjoyed two Astronomy evenings, kindly run by Mr Barker who consistently puts on a very interesting and informative guide to the galaxy; the PA are very appreciative of his continued support.

The Parents' Association raises funds to benefit all students and a favourite element of the committee meetings is the choosing of how to spend the monies raised. We receive "bids" from members of staff and, as well as covering all the costs for the running of the mini-bus, we have been able to fund many items including the replacement of gym equipment, aprons in House colours for the Masterchef competition, under-14 netball kit, football kit, silks for the Riding Club helmets, the refurbishment of the careers room (see separate article), and even an Act-Fast Anti Choking Trainer Vest for practising the Heimlich Manoeuvre!

"Your PA Needs You!"

It really does - please complete the form on the PA page if you can help in any way; we only contact you if you have volunteered in some capacity and we really need more volunteers. Whatever time you can spare will be very much appreciated.

Forthcoming PA events are:

Call My Bluff - Wine-tasting - Friday, 24 April

Annual Raffle - This year we are having an inter-house competition with different coloured tickets printed for each house and house points will be awarded for each ticket sold. Please keep a look-out for your child bringing home their raffle tickets at the beginning of the summer term. If all tickets are sold it could raise £13,000!

Dates and information about our events can be found on the PA page of the RGS website, from regular PA updates via e mail and you can now find RGSPA on Facebook and follow us on Twitter too!

Alison Reed

Chair RGSPA

pa@ripongrammar.co.uk



The Equestrian Team

The equestrian team entered another national qualifier at Northallerton Equestrian Centre.

The team consisted of :

Alexander Abrahams

Lucy Coates

Alex Nanton

Lizzy Walker

Eddie Henson

Riding Little Dez

Riding Dexter

Riding Calista

Riding Diamond City and Kallie

Riding Polly

A valiant effort was made by all team members but unfortunately we did not get placed. We were all very pleased to be wearing our new Ripon Grammar school saddle cloths that have been very kindly funded by the Parents' Association.

Eddie Henson, 2C



RGS Greenpower Club

Three recent photos of the RGS Greenpower Club are shown here. Two are of our new car which is built using carbon-fibre cloth that the PA provided the funds for and one photo is of the Carbon Comet racing at the Goodwood final in October '14 which was also constructed from materials bought using PA donations several years ago.



Schools Challenge Team

Photo shows this year's Schools Challenge team with the PA paid-for buzzers, in their match against St Peter's in December.



Careers Department News

The careers room has recently undergone a phased period of refurbishment, the most recent improvements having been made possible thanks to the continued financial support of RGSPA.

The careers staff, Mrs Locke and Mrs Wilson, are very grateful for the recently installed cupboards and display shelving, which they were able to purchase through the extensive fundraising undertaken by parents and which have made such a difference to the storage and accessing of information. Students visiting the careers room are enjoying the brighter and more vibrant environment and third years, visiting the careers room as part of their career development programme, can be seen here exploring the vast array of resources available to them.

Students from any year group also visit the careers room for our daily lunchtime drop-ins or to book an individual careers guidance appointment. During the autumn term all fifth year students attended a 40 minute guidance interview with either a school or an external careers adviser to talk through their post 16 options and draw up a careers action plan. Sixth form students are also encouraged to arrange at least one face-to-face appointment during their time in the sixth form. Students can also have follow up appointments or ongoing contact via email to help them make the right choices for the future. Parents are very welcome to attend appointments or to contact Mrs Wilson on wilsonf@ripongrammar.co.uk

Our careers programme also includes a range of opportunities for students to gain ideas and inspiration from external sources to help them consider a broad and ambitious range of careers. We are already planning our next large scale careers evening which will be held in March 2016 and are currently looking for exhibitors from across the employment sectors. We would also welcome a volunteer willing to provide several hours a week administrative and IT support in the months leading up to the event. Any parents or friends who would like to be involved can contact Mrs Locke on lockej@ripongrammar.co.uk. We would be delighted to hear from you!

Digging Deep

A project to plant a fruit orchard at boarding schools across Britain is blossoming in Ripon as students leave a fruiting legacy for the future.

Boarders at Ripon Grammar School have planted a cherry tree as part of the Boarding Schools Association initiative to create the largest orchard, by distance, in the UK.

Girls who live at Johnson House, the grammar school's boarding house for girls, unanimously chose 'Cherry summer sun', or *prunus avium*, from the list offered. Lucy Mumford, 16, of Pickering, explained: "We were given a choice but everyone wanted a cherry tree because they think it's pretty and we can eat the fruit in the summer."

The grammar school's tree will be plotted on a special section of the Boarding Schools' Association website, which will expand and grow as the orchard develops across Britain.

The tree's arrival has coincided with the school building on its boarding provision for the future with work underway on an extension to Johnson House, which will see capacity increase from 38 to 50 girls from September. The new extension will provide single rooms, primarily aimed at sixth formers, as well as communal areas and additional accommodation for resident staff

Ripon Grammar School is one of only 38 state boarding schools in England, where education is free but boarding is paid for, and is a popular choice for parents with jobs that take them out of the country, who live too far from Ripon to do a daily commute or who want to give their children more independence before university. The school also has 40 boy boarders aged 11-18.

Headmaster, Mr Pearman, said: "The girls were very keen to join the Boarding Orchard initiative and to play their part in this national initiative to plant more fruit trees across Britain.

"We're all looking forward to the tree blossoming in the garden of Johnson House and complementing the new boarding extension when it's completed later this year."

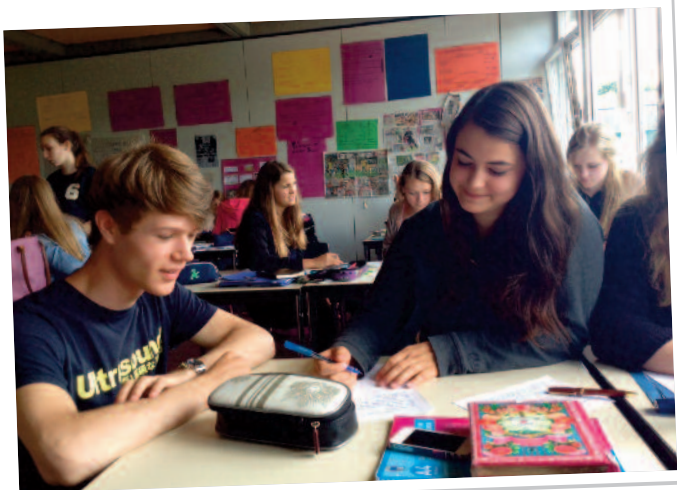


Digging deep: Beattie Knights, Lucy Mumford and Millie Dias plant the new cherry tree.

Schools in Germany and Austria

Teaching English to the Germans

As part of an exchange programme between Hittfeld Gymnasium and Ripon Grammar School, myself and Joe Lewis spent a very interesting week in Hittfeld, a town near Hamburg, in northern Germany.



We each stayed with two local pupils and lived like 'Deutsche', partaking of typical German activities such as eating Sauerkraut (a kind of pickled cabbage) and cycling everywhere.

Not only did we get to sample the finest of German cuisine (ice cream lasagne comes to mind!), we also had the pleasure of working with English classes in the high school. In Germany English is taught from as early as eight years old, so needless to say, our task was not too arduous.



In the younger classes we were asked to introduce English games, such as Pictionary, to the pupils which was a lot of fun. The highlight of this would probably be hearing year fives shouting SQUIRREL in a very German accent. With the older pupils, we discussed German stereotypes, international views on Germany and the pros and cons of living in the UK. It's a very humbling experience to know that despite borders and a different language, kids are pretty much the same.

After each school day (which started at 7am and finished at 1:30pm!) we would return to our host families and eat lunch. This free time in the afternoon meant that German pupils could go out into Hamburg city for the rest of the day, or meet up with their friends. I think that as time went on, this system sort of grew on us and a lot of the pupils I talked to said that it was excellent preparation for a working schedule later in life.

The experience has taught me a lot about the German culture and how valuable it is to be able to understand different perspectives on life. I hope that everyone has a chance to experience something similar to this because I know it's not something we'll be forgetting soon.

Amber Hurry U6E

An Austrian Adventure

Earlier this year I flew to Austria for an invaluable month spent immersing myself in the German language.



During my trip I stayed with a family friend – an Austrian vet – in the town of Eisenstadt in Burgenland. As well as being renowned for its vineyards, Burgenland also benefits from sharing a border with Hungary, Slovenia and Slovakia. Consequently the region is highly multi-cultural.

In order to practise my language skills I spent time with my host's family and friends; however, at first I found the prospect of a whole conversation in German pretty daunting! Whilst pupils here at Ripon Grammar School enjoy regular verbal communication in their second language during classes, I had not been given this opportunity at my high school. Once I overcame my fear of making mistakes it was a lot easier to relax and develop my spoken German.

As for furthering my reading skills, my host kindly took me to the Albertina Museum in Vienna, the Roman fort at Carnuntum and Burg Forchtenstein, a castle in Burgenland itself. I loved the cultural aspects of these day trips, although the vocabulary that I picked up from various exhibitions was fairly specialised! As the displays often contained information referring to the past, present and future of the historical sites, my knowledge of the tenses was also put to the test.

Towards the end of my visit I attended two days of lessons in a nearby Austrian "Gymnasium", their Grammar School equivalent. What a contrast to the English system! The school was a confusing mix of informal and formal; for example, whilst pupils are allowed to dress and style their appearances in any way they please, when an adult enters the room they have to stand, and wait until told to be seated. Pupils can go home at any time if they don't have a lesson, and the school day begins at around 8am, ending close to 2pm in the afternoons. Core subjects are compulsory to A-level standard. The pupils were envious when they heard I was only studying four.

All in all, my month in Austria was an eye-opening experience. I thoroughly enjoyed discovering the country's cultural heritage, and gained a great deal of self-confidence from the constant demand to speak and read German. If the opportunity to travel to Austria is available to you, I highly recommend that you take it.

Alex Mason U6D



Battle of the Books

The written word took centre stage as literary students competed in an annual battle of the books.



Wordy winners, Lottie Leigh, Amy Rees, Jess Dunmore and Issy Murray, of Harrogate Grammar School, who took the battle of the books title at Ripon Grammar School, with quizmaster Kev F Sutherland

Ripon Grammar School had the honour of hosting the Harrogate & District School Librarians' quiz after winning the contest last year. This year they were gracious runners-up to Harrogate Grammar School who took the title after six closely fought rounds.

Comic artist Kev F Sutherland, whose work appears in *The Beano* and *Dr Who Adventures*, was quizmaster, posing the questions to the teams that also included Ashville College, Harrogate Ladies' College, Nidderdale High School, Roundhay School, St John Fisher Catholic High School, King James's School, Prince Henry's Grammar School, Rossett School, St Aidan's CE High School and Harrogate High School.

Issy Murray, from Harrogate Grammar School, said: "We didn't come with any expectations at all and just thought if we came 12th we'd be happy. We're amazed to have won."



Bishop Thornton C of E Primary School winners of the Junior Cup

There were also questions for parents and young siblings in the audience, with Bishop Thornton C of E Primary School winning the Junior Cup for their contribution.

Sally Dring, librarian at Ripon Grammar School, said: "After winning last year we were delighted to welcome everyone to RGS, and also to pass the baton on to this year's winners Harrogate Grammar."

"The quiz is a great fun event that helps to encourage a love of books and inspire young people to read more, helped this year by our fabulous quizmaster in Kev. It's also a great evening of friendly competition and we're very grateful to former Harrogate Ladies' College librarian Fiona Brady for setting the questions at just the right level."

Ripon Grammar food technology students made scones and biscuits for the interval and the welcome refreshments were served by the Parents' Association, with all donations going to the Jenny Unwin appeal.

The Little Ripon Book Shop also attended with books to buy.

Sixth Formers Begin NHS Volunteering Scheme

A few years ago the NHS Volunteering 'Become a Volunteer' Scheme came to my attention after attending a 'Careers in Medicine' evening at Harrogate Hospital.

I was fortunate enough to be sixteen already, the required age to apply, and so I immediately applied and encouraged my friend, Scott Place, to apply also. I have been interested in following a career in medicine, with the ambition to become a doctor, for a number of years and the NHS volunteer scheme provides an excellent insight into life in a hospital and the important role that volunteers carry out in our NHS.

After successfully applying we were invited to the induction day at Harrogate Hospital, where we were to be trained as 'Hand Hygiene Champions'. This is a role designed to spread awareness of hand hygiene related issues, and remind both visitors and staff to wash their hands when entering and leaving wards. We were asked to dedicate at least one hour a week to volunteering and even given membership to the Harrogate District Foundation Trust. After committing to at least six months to this role you are then invited to apply to become a Meal Time Volunteer.

Harrogate District Foundation Trust instigates 'Protected Meal Times', ensuring that between 12.30pm -1.30pm there are no doctors or visitors on wards, in order to keep meal times as normal and as uninterrupted as possible. This is extremely important to patient care as many patients can be spending weeks in hospital and ensuring a normal diet is imperative to their recovery and general health. A second training day was required in order to be a qualified Meal Time Volunteer, where Scott and I participated in group activities. This included sampling NHS food of varying consistencies, sampling food supplements and liquid replacements in addition to learning how to correctly feed a patient whilst maintaining their wellbeing and dignity.

Since qualifying as a Meal Time Volunteer I have spent an invaluable amount of time on the wards, particularly at Ripon Hospital, where I have been fortunate enough to interact with both patients and a wide range of staff. Whether we are handing out meals, feeding patients,



Dan Kane, Hannah Scholes, Emma Hope, Scott Place - NHS Volunteers

helping to clear away plates or simply chatting with patients we are always welcomed.

The scheme holds new inductions every three months, and is open to anyone over the age of sixteen. If you are considering a career in medicine, or any form of healthcare, the volunteering scheme offers a vital insight into patient care, and allows you to experience a hospital environment. Showing commitment and interest in your course, through voluntary work, can greatly enhance your application to university as well as enabling you to develop and mature into a young adult. My experience as a member of the Harrogate District Foundation Trust has also allowed me to ascertain that medicine is the career for me, and I can't imagine doing anything else. If you would like more information visit the website:

<http://www.hdft.nhs.uk/working-for-us/become-a-volunteer/>

Hannah Scholes, L6D

Comic Masterclass

Students came face to face with their comic selves when an illustrator created their caricatures during a workshop.



(above) Edward Hutchinson

(left) Comic artist Kev F Sutherland draws Finlay Bean, 12, of Ripon, while Paloma Calvert, 13, of Langthorpe, adds a drawing to the cover of the group's comic



Jess Hasson, 12, of Ripon, works on her own comic character



Students at Ripon Grammar School posed for portraits by Kev F Sutherland, famous for his comic strips Bananaman and others in The Beano, Dr Who Adventures and Match.

The comic masterclass for Year 8 also saw students creating their own characters, voting on a title for their comic and drawing their own comic strips. The stories in pictures were collated in a whole-class comic with the winning title, Jeroldine's Jumping Jelly, suggested by Finlay Bean.

Sutherland, who studied fine art at university and has been a professional illustrator for 25 years, told the students: "If you want to draw anything, find your reference from your inner library. Copying isn't cheating, it's learning. You can't come up with something in your head until you've put it in there."

On a mission to get every student drawing, he added: "Have faith, have confidence in yourself. Just try scribbling. Take simple shapes and join them together or show me your impressive drawing techniques."

He showed the students some of his original comic artwork alongside the published final version and explained how drawing big allowed the artist to add more detail and how greater impact could be achieved by separating the action in a comic.

Edward Hutchinson said: "It's been really interesting. I've learned a lot including how you can use your letters to draw features on a character."

House Report – Spring Term 2015

The RGS News had already gone to print long before we held House Swimming Sports which proved to be as popular as ever. The results were as follows;

GIRLS	JUNIOR	BOYS
HUTTON (55)	1ST	HUTTON (62)
DE GREY (52)	2ND	DE GREY (59)
SCHOOL (41)	3RD	PORTEUS (34)
PORTEUS (35)	4TH	SCHOOL (33)

GIRLS	INTERMEDIATE	BOYS
HUTTON (69)	1ST	DE GREY (61)
SCHOOL (49)	2ND	SCHOOL (58)
PORTEUS (47)	3RD	HUTTON (47)
DE GREY (46)	4TH	PORTEUS (41)

GIRLS	SENIOR	BOYS
HUTTON (42)	1ST	DE GREY (41)
DE GREY (35)	2ND	HUTTON (31)
PORTEUS (31)	3RD	SCHOOL (29)
SCHOOL (0)	4TH	PORTEUS (14)

OVERALL RESULT	
HUTTON - 306	1ST
DE GREY - 297	2ND
SCHOOL - 210	3RD
PORTEUS - 202	4TH

Notable performances from:

Girls – Laura and Amy Crompton, Ruth and Anna Marley, Christa Wilson and Laura Mackenzie
Boys – Albert Savage, Titus Baker, Sam Mansfield and Joey Haynes

House Report – Spring Term 2015 cont.

By Christmas, after all the results had been totalled, the scoreboard looked like this:

TOTAL RESULT	
HUTTON - 2550	1ST
DE GREY - 2300	2ND
PORTEUS - 1950	3RD
SCHOOL - 1900	4TH



Senior VX

VX is played over two lunchtimes and at time of going to print only the first round had been played. But what a round!

This was simply the best set of house matches so far with talent and sportsmanship shining through. Leon Hickingbotham, new to the sport, showed incredible ability in both his blocking and his accuracy. His sheer athleticism can be seen in the photo below. England talent selector, Paul Hildreth refereed the matches and immediately spotted Leon as a star of the future.

VX is a unique sport where girls play on an equal footing to boys. Teams can be mixed or single gender. In the Senior VX competition there were more girls playing than boys and one team made up entirely of girls thrashed a teams of four boys and one girl!.

The scores see School going into the final round in the lead on 10 points, closely followed by De Grey and Hutton on 6 points each. Porteus are trailing but a win in their final match could see them reach the rostrum. By the same token, School can also be caught at the top. There is definitely all to play for...



Intermediate House Netball

Intermediate House Netball took place on Wednesday 25th February.

On paper School house looked the strongest squad and also had the most Fourth Years playing for their team. They set their stall out immediately by beating De Grey by 4 goals to 1. With Porteus unable to field a team, Hutton then played School in a tightly fought match which eventually – and rightly – ended in an 8 – 8 draw with a goal from School's shooter Izzy Andrew in the dying seconds.

All that was left for Hutton to do to take the spoils was to beat De Grey by more than 3 goals in order to win on Goal Difference. Coached from the sidelines by House Captains Olivia Howatson Kerr and Emma Lee, they took an immediate lead. De Grey however, were not going to give in easily with some amazing mid court play and some accurate shooting, keeping them within 2 goals of Hutton's score by half time. Solidity in the midcourt coupled with some great shooting under pressure from Sophie Richardson and Megan Trewitt ensured the Hutton victory whilst the defence dominated by Amy Mackenzie and Louise Taylor denied De Grey the goals they needed. The eventual score was 14 – 9 to Hutton making them overall champions on goal difference.

1st – HUTTON, 2nd – SCHOOL, 3rd – DE GREY, 4th – PORTEUS



Also this term in the House Competitions there has been Senior boys' football, Junior girls' netball, Senior Masterchef, Rock Climbing for all years and Mixed Senior Water Polo.

The events look 'Senior heavy' but the seniors will be busy with exams next term and so will not be available for much extra-curricular activity. Also a variety of Cup and Plate events take place in Games lessons towards the end of the term so everybody has the chance to represent their House.

I have also purchased a brand new House Shield to be awarded when all the house points are totalled at the end of the year. This should give the House System even greater kudos. I will be opening up the House Captaincy applications to Lower Sixth formers during the summer term so they can take the responsibility from the Upper Sixth and so we can really hit the ground running in September.

Helen Mackenzie
Head of House System

Sport

Ripon Grammar School's sporting achievements have undoubtedly continued from the success of the winter term.

Hockey

Last term saw the 'Hockey Hat-trick' where the U14, U16 and U18 girls' teams all qualified to go through to county rounds, with huge congratulations going to the U14 squad who participated in the North East round. Katherine Barrett, Olivia Borchard and Millie Simenacz have recently gained representative honours for North Yorkshire hockey and as well as this, for the first time we are seeing boys teams participate in competitive matches. The U13 and U12 boys hockey teams have proven to be very promising after competing in respective North Yorkshire Schools' tournaments - the U13 team picked up a win against Harrogate Grammar and fought back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 with Thirsk. Both teams performed brilliantly against much more experienced opposition.

Rugby

In rugby, the U15 team has comfortably guaranteed themselves a place in the semi-finals of the Yorkshire Cup following a great performance against Trinity Academy (Doncaster) which they won 33-0. To get this far is a huge achievement after coming up against the two-time Yorkshire Cup holders South Hunsley in January which was an incredibly exciting match, with RGS levelling the scores at the last minute, which meant they went through as the away team. We wish them the best of luck in the next round. The RGS 1st rugby team has also performed extremely well in the Yorkshire Cup this term, achieving success against the likes of Richmond with an impressive score of 48-20. Despite the atrocious conditions and excellent play, however, the team narrowly lost against Erasmysteds 8-14 amidst snow and sleet which marks an end to their otherwise strong participation in the Yorkshire Cup. Revenge was sweet as RGS won the Austin Friar's rugby tournament this term beating Erasmysteds in the final. There have been strong rugby performances in all age groups; the U12 team have managed to maintain their successful winning streak into this term, and the U14 team reached the Yorkshire Cup quarter-finals before losing to QEGS.

Netball

For the first time ever, a Ripon Grammar School team has secured themselves a place in the National Netball Finals. The U14 netballers have broken school history, achieving runner-up in the Northern Area competition, allowing them to progress to the National Finals. Huge congratulations to every team member and best of luck in the upcoming Nationals.

This term, sport at Ripon Grammar School has been incredibly exciting, and we all look forward to hearing about future achievements and opportunities.

Swimming

The swimming team had their first fixture of the year against QM of York, and, following a late RGS disqualification during the final relay, they narrowly lost by only three points. The team are now looking forward to facing Ashville, QE and the best of the area in upcoming galas as well as participating in the Leeds Schools' Gala later this term.

Volleyball

Ripon Grammar School's volleyball teams are now playing competitive matches as many have taken to the sport after being introduced to volleyball in P.E. lessons. The U13 mixed volleyball team participated in the Harrogate and Craven School Games Competition and came runners-up, and there is hope of further success as they may yet qualify for the North Yorkshire Finals later in the year. Both the U15 boys and girls volleyball teams have reached the Northern round of the National Cup which is due to take place in March.

Cross Country

Congratulations goes to Libby Rickard and Ben Pease who have been awarded North Yorkshire ties, following their excellent performances in cross country competitions and representing North Yorkshire. They are also part of RGS's popular running club which organises training both during lunchtime and after school, allowing students to escape from the pressures of work in running on varied routes, both in and out of the school premises, most of which are in the countryside.

Opportunities

The sporting department at Ripon Grammar School has also given students the invaluable opportunity to watch professional matches outside of school. Students travelled to Manchester at the end of last term to watch Manchester City play in the UEFA Champions League group stage against Bayern Munich, and they witnessed the dramatic 3-2 victory to Manchester City. This term, there was another trip to watch Manchester City play in the knockout stage of the UEFA Champions League where they are lined up against Barcelona. Not only have students been able to witness top-class football, but also top-class international rugby. Students in years 7 to 10 were offered the opportunity to watch England play Italy in the RBS 6 Nations in London, an amazing experience made even better by England's defeat of Italy.



On the ball: (L-R) Ripon Grammar School's successful U14s netball team Amelia Borchard, Molly Reed, Sophie Richardson, Captain Jessica Merrin, Amy Mackenzie, Katie Reed, Lucy Williams and Emily Reed

Netball U14s National Finals

Young sports women have netted a place in their school's history books by winning a place in a national final. The U14 netball team from Ripon Grammar School already have the honour of being the first squad to make it through the area, county and regional rounds of the competition as either winners or runners-up. Now they, along with Leeds Grammar School, will represent Yorkshire in the national finals at Ellesmere Port on March 14.

The team comprises: Molly Reed, 14, of Ripon, Katie Reed, 12, of Ripon, Emily Reed, 14, of Ripon, Amy Mackenzie, 14, of Ripon, Lucy Williams, 14, of Wetherby, Sophie Richardson, 14, of Hutton Conyers, Amelia Borchard, 14, of Ripon, and captain Jessica Merrin, 13, of Kirkby Malzeard. They are coached by teacher Helen Mackenzie.

Tense tournaments that started in September saw the girls first qualify for the county competition as runners-up by one goal to Harrogate Ladies College in the Harrogate and Craven area round. They went on to win the county round, which took them to the regional finals as the top team in North Yorkshire. To mark the occasion, Ripon Grammar School Parents' Association bought the girls new netball dresses and shorts for the tournament at Rotherham, in which they came second to Leeds with the top two teams going through to the national finals.

"We've never got past the county round before so to come out as champions was just amazing," said Mrs Mackenzie.

"The girls looked gorgeous in their new kit at the regionals and they lost only one game, drew another and won all the rest. I knew on a good day we could get beyond the regionals so to have it confirmed with a place in the national finals is fantastic, not just for the girls but also their parents who are really supportive.

"Having got this far we're aiming to show what we're really capable of in the finals. All the age categories at last year's national finals were won by a Yorkshire team, which confirms Yorkshire as a really strong region for netball."

Mrs Mackenzie added that the girls and coaches were extremely grateful for the sponsorship of ten team hoodies from Amelia's father Graeme Borchard, of Ripon Interiors.

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
View RGS News on our website www.ripongrammar.co.uk