



## First XV victory

Sporting news from one of the school's most successful seasons.

## Charity Week

This year the Sixth Form chose to raise money for Candlelighters, a charity very close to the school's heart.

## Poetry Week

Students share their own work from Ripon Poetry Festival and the Foyle Young Poets Award Ceremony in London.

# RGS News

Issue 48 Autumn 2017



*Oliver Williams, L6C, Dipraj Jimee, L6D and Ted Wainwright, L6D - members of First XV rugby team*



# WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the RGS news. Thank you as ever to Mrs Hargraves and the editorial team of Clementine Lumsden, Annie Fry, Beau McCormick-Roddis, Benedicta Muhairez, Rosie Taylor, Phoebe Senior, Molly Gallagher and Katharine Chatterton in bringing together this publication at what is always a busy time of the year. It is a great opportunity for young journalistic talent to show through, as they have been the ones responsible for assembling the articles and interviews. Well done!

I can't quite believe that my first term at RGS has gone so fast. Though I write this in mid - November, inevitably when you read this thoughts will be turning to Christmas and the festive season. Already the lights are up in Ripon and the Christmas fairs are starting. Only the other day I was being briefed by my secretary on what to do in the event of snow. Let's hope for a white Christmas but only after term comes to an end!

There have been a number of high points to the term, which you will read about in this edition, and none more so than Senior Prize Giving and Speech Day. Though I was not privileged to know last year's Upper Sixth I have heard so many positive words said about them and it was great to see so many returning to celebrate what was an excellent year for A Level results and university admissions. It was also a privilege to hear Reverend Professor David Wilkinson speak with passion, and indeed great humour, on the nature of success, wisdom, and his faith in God. He also spoke about his love of rollercoasters to which I suggested a return trip to ride The Ultimate- the last carriage of course.

I do hope that as you read these pages that you will get a sense of the sheer variety and wealth of opportunities that the school has to offer. It is, I hope, a school that will cherish all talents and allow all students to follow their interests.

I would also like to wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

With best wishes.

Jonathan M Webb (Headmaster)



## Bewerley Park Boarding Trip

On the 19th November I was awoken by the loud ringing of the bell at 7.30am. Although I am used to waking up at 10-ish at the weekend, with no bell, I couldn't wait for the exciting day ahead at Bewerley Park and I was definitely NOT disappointed.

The first thing we were to face was the daunting 'Jacob's Ladder'. When the first group went up, although they didn't make it look easy they at least made it look accomplishable. Little did I know it was going to be an entirely different story when I jumped up onto the first pole! It was great fun but the swaying to and fro of the poles was so scary and I just couldn't wait to reach the ever-distancing ground. In the afternoon, and after a well-earned lunch, we went mountain biking on the sites of Bewerley Park. This was definitely more along my lines, as I was keen on doing all the little jumps and was also on solid ground at all times!

Overall I would definitely recommend Bewerley Park as it made us become closer as a boarding house and also gave us the opportunity to speak to people in boarding that we had not necessarily had more than a 'chat' with before. Hopefully there will be more boarders' trips in the future like this and I will be heading to Bewerley Park to reach the top of Jacob's Ladder! Paul, from Bewerley Park, looked after us so well and helped us to not only become better bikers but conquer some of our fears.

**Catherine Otoibhi, L6A**

Bewerley Park on Sunday the 19th of November was chilly but good fun. Being the first up the treacherous Jacob's Ladder with three other termies from Johnson House - before it was even 11am - was a nice change from the warm bed that most other 17 year olds would find themselves in on a Sunday morning. It was so hard but we eventually did it, much to the surprise of everyone on the ground. The sense of determination we had was incredible - I've never felt anything like it. Being the brave one, I also did the leap of faith first- climbing up a wobbly pole to meet a lovely view of Yorkshire and then jumping off it.

The afternoon took a different but enjoyable tone, taking out the mountain bikes on the park's track. By the end of the day we were all worn out but had a great time! Thank you to Paul who looked after us.

**Lily Omidiran**

'It was a great experience for the termly boarders, taking us out of our comfort zones'

**Brianna Dale L6**

'We motivated each other to push past the fear - it was a great bonding experience'

**Amaani Ikram U6B**

# PRINCE'S TRUST



The Prince's Trust is a charity in the United Kingdom founded in 1976 by Charles, Prince of Wales, and Frederick John Pervin to help young people.

They run a range of training programmes, provide mentoring support and offer financial grants to build the confidence and motivation of disadvantaged young people. Each year they work with about 60,000 young people, with around 80% moving on to employment, education, training or volunteering.

In 1999, the numerous Trust charities were brought together as The Prince's Trust and was acknowledged by The Queen at a ceremony in Buckingham Palace where she granted it a Royal Charter. The following year it devolved in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and other English regions but overall control remained in London. The Prince's Trust fundraising and campaign events are often hosted and feature entertainers from around the world. In April 2011 the youth charity Fairbridge became part of the Trust.

The Prince's Trust is one of the most successful funding organisations in the UK and the UK's leading youth charity, having helped over 825,000 young people turn their lives around, created 125,000 entrepreneurs and given business support to 395,000 people in the UK.

From 2006 to 2016, its work for the youth has been worth an estimated £1.4 billion.

## RGS PRINCE'S TRUST UPDATE

The Ripon Grammar School Prince's Trust team is comprised of students in the Fourth, Fifth and Lower Sixth forms who are raising much-needed funds to help young disadvantaged people into employment, higher education and training. So far, we have successfully raised £125 as an initial fund and, as a team during enrichment and lunchtime sessions, we have been using this to fund making Christmas hanging decorations and bracelets ready for various fairs we will attend. We plan to keep up with tradition and sell candy canes and roses for Valentine's Day in school and we also hope to sell sweatshirts. In addition to this we hope to organise a Christmas film night for the Lower School and hold a Valentine's Ball for the Sixth Form students. Our target is to raise at least £1,000 for such a deserving charity.

**Natasha Lovel, L6E**

Ripon Grammar School is proud to boast a friendly, welcoming and supportive community in which students feel comfortable and are able to thrive.

**“I feel like I have been here for years”**

## INTERVIEWS WITH NEW FIRST FORM AND SIXTH FORM STUDENTS

The unity amongst students at the school is a rare and special feature of the school and helps to create a strong sense of community across the year groups, as well as to help new students settle in quickly. This is reflected in some of the comments made by our new First Form and Lower Sixth students who joined us in September and whom I interviewed in order to gain an insight into how they felt RGS had helped them to settle into a new environment.

The First Form felt that the wide range of clubs offered at RGS enable students to meet people who they share interests with and this helped him to settle in and make new friends. One student commented that the support from teachers at the school ‘made the move easy and there is lots of help with learning new things and making the transition’. She said that so far she has really enjoyed being part of RGS and although it’s challenging at times, she prefers it to primary school.

**“My favourite aspect of school is participating in group activities”**

Another student told me that RGS ‘made the move as subtle and easy as possible and has taken things slowly’ in order to help students settle in better. Her favourite lesson is PE as she finds it fun even though it’s a different approach to that of primary school. One boy advised that he enjoys PE the most as he finds it enjoyable whilst being competitive. He said that moving to secondary school ‘has its ups and downs’ but in the end he prefers it to being in primary school. He said the transition was made easy by the amount of support students receive, even though there is a lot of homework!

I also asked some of the new members of the Lower Sixth for their opinions on how RGS, the Sixth Form team and previous Ripon Grammar School students helped them to settle in. The Sixth Form at Ripon Grammar is relatively small and therefore is an extremely close-knit community in which every student has the opportunity to seek guidance, voice opinions and really immerse themselves in their subjects.

One student said ‘at first I found the transition a little overwhelming but as I began to make friends and settle myself into a group, I felt myself settle in the Sixth Form as a whole’. Similarly, another student said that ‘the transition wasn’t easy at first because there are far more pupils at Ripon Grammar than there were at my old school, and so I felt quite overwhelmed by this and unsure about where to start when it came to talking to people. But I found that everyone was really welcoming and polite, which was definitely a relief! My favourite aspect of school is probably participating in group activities like drama and debating society because it’s a great way to get to know new people and hear their perspectives.’

Finally, one student found that ‘the transition from Ryedale to Ripon was comfortable, as both schools are relatively small so there is a sense of community in both. Also being in the rugby team has helped him to settle in. ‘The bonding and friendships made through sport has made me feel like a member of the team and also like I have been here for years’. It is clear from these comments that new students at RGS find it incredibly easy to find activities in which to participate and, through that, to make friends and settle into the school community. We hope that those students continue to enjoy their time at RGS.

Beau Roddis, DSG

**“I began to make friends and settle into a group”**



# HISTORY & ART TRIP TO LIVERPOOL

In early October, Sixth Form Art students and Fourth Form History students embarked on a trip across the pennines to Tate Liverpool which coincided with a landmark exhibition on Weimar German Art.

Our first stop was the temporary joint exhibition of the war artist Otto Dix and social photographer August Sander, which was highly praised in The Guardian: a collection featuring more than 300 paintings, drawings, prints and photographs at the Tate itself, which I personally found enthralling. After looking around the permanent collection at the Tate, spotting works by the likes of Cy Twombly, Picasso, Jackson Pollock, and a special Roy Lichtenstein exhibition (which was particularly gripping), we received a informative talk, providing more detail into the backgrounds and contexts of the artwork, specifically works by Otto Dix. Following this, the Fourth Form historians made their way to the nearby and globally renowned International Slavery and Merseyside Maritime museums, also in the historic and picturesque Albert Dock area. Situated near by, along Liverpool's world famous waterfront, they also passed the Port of Liverpool building and the historic Liver Building- examples of Edwardian architecture. This will complete their studies on 'Migration, Empire and Trade' at GCSE. Meanwhile, the Sixth Form artists explored nearby Crosby beach, to look at the eerie Antony Gormley collection consisting of 100 cast-iron, life-size figures spread out along three kilometres of the shore, and stretching almost one kilometre out to sea. By the time we got to the beach the tide was already in, adding to the ominous presence felt on the beach. Overall, the trip gave a great insight into the History of German Art, and despite its tragic links to a past of slavery, it was clear to see the history and prominence this city has within the art scene.

**Benedicta Muharez, U6 B**



On Monday, 9th October the Fourth Form historians and their teachers went on a fascinating trip to Liverpool to see some highly acclaimed, Weimar-era German artworks at the northern outpost of the Tate Art Gallery.

As most people know Liverpool is a long way from our small city of Ripon, so it was a very long bus trip! However, it was all worth it when we finally got to Liverpool's stunning Albert Dock, where the gallery is located.

After lunch, we were given an interesting and engaging presentation on the two men whose art we came to see: August Sander and Otto Dix. Otto Dix was a German painter and printmaker famous for his disturbingly realistic depictions of Weimar society and the brutality of war. August Sander, however, was a photographer who took hundreds of portrait photographs, showing what life was like during this dark and unstable period of German history, to record for future generations to look back on and compare. The art showed us a unique glimpse into the minds of the people from that time and offered hints as to their political orientation.

After we had learnt from the excellent exhibition, we had time to pay a brief visit to the Liverpool maritime and slavery museum at the other side of the dockyard. We saw the main bits in the museum such as the story of the Lusitania, objects from the wreck of the Titanic, slavery and Liverpool and the special exhibition about border control. The half an hour went surprisingly quickly, and before we knew it we were back on the bus on the way home. It was a very enjoyable trip which the historians benefited from and we learnt a lot about what ordinary people thought about Weimar Germany. The fourth year historians will all be begging for another trip like this.

**Kurt Sear, 4B**

# HISTORY TRIP TO FOUNTAINS ABBEY

On Tuesday 7th November, a group of intrepid explorers set off, under grey skies promising rain, to explore the medieval surroundings of Ripon.

Seventy Fifth Form students, with packed lunches, warm coats and brimming with intellectual curiosity, set off to explore Fountains Abbey and nearby moated manor house of Markenfield Hall. At first, the day seemed doomed to failure - as we arrived at Markenfield, it became clear that our bus,

despite the driver's repeated attempts to manoeuvre it free, was well and truly stuck. Forty minutes later, the bus was free to set off to Fountains Abbey where Mr Spiers' and Mr Bruce's energetic tour guiding ensured that the students enjoyed their visit, despite the rain!

Meanwhile, the second group were enjoying a fantastic insight into the high life of medieval England. Some excellent guides at Markenfield Hall brought the medieval building alive, and the roaring fire made a welcome contrast to the cold and wet outside. In the ruins of Fountains Abbey, the reality of the suffering experienced, at least by the ordinary brothers, was felt on this cold, wet day. Students hunted round the abbey buildings for the single fireplace in the warming room, and learnt about the development of the abbey from the excellent displays. At Swanley Grange, medieval wool production and dyeing, studied in lessons, became more comprehensible. Visiting the abbey mill reminded students of the economic importance of medieval monastic houses, as well as providing an opportunity for displays of strength as students took it in turn to grind flour using the hand operated machinery. The visit concluded, hot chocolate in the café allowed everyone to warm up before heading back to the 21st century reality of school.

**Mrs Fell**



**Rafaella Shiers, 5A and Eddie Henson, 5B**



# GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

Geography GCSE has more emphasis on fieldwork than ever before. It is now a requirement that students carry out two sessions of fieldwork in contrasting locations. The Fifth Form Geographers set off on their two days of fieldwork on Wednesday, 11th October; first stop, Hornsea.

All the students learnt about the sea defences that protect the British coastline from coastal erosion and other coastal processes. Hornsea is a seaside town that suffers from the coastal process of long shore drift. This means that, due to our prevailing wind, sand is constantly being moved south towards Norfolk. If this is not prevented there will be little or no beaches across the Yorkshire Coastline and people's way of life could be literally washed away by coastal erosion. However, groynes have been put in place to prevent the long shore drift and the students spent the afternoon measuring and recording primary data to prove the success of the long shore drift. Trying to pin down a 30 metre measuring tape in strong gales was quite a challenge, but our students endeavoured to collect their fieldwork data!

On day two the geographers headed to York, a contrasting, much more built-up environment compared to Hornsea but the students welcomed the warmer temperatures of an urban hot-spot. Here, the students were investigating the success of sustainable urban transport and visited two sites; Poppleton's 'Park and Ride' and Clifford's Tower. The students carried out methods of primary data collection, such as car park surveys, annotated field sketches and traffic counts to deduce whether York has got suitable and successful green transport.

The students fully committed to this important element of their GCSE Geography course and worked and behaved superbly. Well done to all and many thanks to the staff involved.

**Mrs Wainwright, Head of Geography**





**As ever, the department has had a busy start to the academic year. However, first it is worth going back to the end of last year for a highlight and a first for Ripon Grammar School.**

For last year's Commemoration Service and to mark the retirement of Mr Pearman, the Parents' Association commissioned a piece of choral music by the internationally renowned composer Philip Wilby. This piece of music ('God's Grandeur') was challenging and demonstrated the skill and quality of our singers to a very high level. The piece included solos sung, on this occasion, by Susie Morgan, Sofia Robinson and Evie Sladden. To have the honour and privilege to perform this wonderful piece for the first time was thrilling, and we are very grateful to the Parents' Association and to Philip Wilby for the opportunity. It is hoped that a formal recording of the piece will be made this year.

All choirs and ensembles have been very active in this first term. Our first performance was a charity concert for Holy Trinity Church by our Man Choir, Senior Girls' Choir and Chamber Choir who all delivered excellent performances to raise money for the church. The Autumn concert was also a huge success, helping to raise over £400 for this year's chosen charity Candlelighters, with energetic performances from the first years, to our most experienced ensembles. It was also the first performance for one of our newest groups, Junior Man Choir. They gave an excellent performance of Pompeii by Bastille, including harmonies! A great achievement in such a short space of time.

The following week, Senior Girls' Choir joined forces with the chapel choir of Harrogate Ladies' College to sing Choral Evensong at Ripon Cathedral. It was a wonderful experience to sing with another school choir and the combined sound was magnificent. Senior Girls' Choir is now directed by Mrs Sladden and her knowledge and expertise is highly valued by the girls.

Straight after half term, Chamber Choir also paid a visit to the Cathedral to sing Choral Evensong.

The music sung was advanced in places and required a lot of training and preparation. The end result was a superb display of sensitive and accomplished musicianship. It was a delight to have James Kitchingman who demonstrated his musical abilities by composing a set of responses especially for the choir to sing at this service.

The very next day saw the debut performance of 'RGS SING', a vocal group specializing exclusively in popular music. It is led by one of our singing teachers, Mrs Johnson. The group sang Brave by Sara Bareilles and was presented in a 'flash mob' style during break time.

On 3rd November, Big Band performed at the Ripon Race Course Bonfire to a large audience before the fireworks, and was a huge success. Thank you to all who performed; it was wonderful!

Many RGS pupils had great success in the recent Ripon Young Musician Competition. Whilst those students were not entered by the School it was wonderful to see so many of them there.

Those students participating were:

**Elizabeth McEvoy** (Winner junior ensemble class)

**Eva Scullion** (Winner junior 2 skills class)

**Susie Morgan** (Winner junior, senior and overall ensemble class. Winner overall 2 skills class)

**Katharine Chatterton** (Winner senior and overall ensemble class)

**Anike Schwarze-Chintapatla** (Winner senior and overall ensemble class)

**Rafaella Shiers** (Winner senior solo voice)

**Alexandra Romyn** (Winner junior ensemble class)

**Shen Jie Yaw** (Highly commended senior ensemble class. Winner senior solo instrument class)

**Zander Abrahams** (Commended senior solo instrument class)

**Jospeh Davis** (Winner junior solo voice)

**Kush Mukerji**

**Kai Newby**

**Alfie McEvoy**

**Francesca Abrahams**

At the time of writing we are looking forward to several Christmas engagements. On 2nd December the Chamber Choir will join forces with Ripon Cathedral Choir for the Cathedral Christmas Concert, The Story of Christmas. On 14th December we present our own Christmas Concert in the School Hall (7.30pm) and on 18th December we have the School Carol Service in Ripon Cathedral (7.30pm). On Wednesday 20th December the Big Band will visit local primary schools, as a new outreach initiative.

We hope you can join us at one of these events.

**Katharine Chatterton, U6C & Mr Seymour**

# HOUSE DRAMA

## De Grey House:

De Grey House's production of *The Crucible* was magnificently morbid, telling the story of the witch trials in Salem. The simplicity of the set and the monochromatic costuming highlighted the acting talent of a very committed cast. Chilling performances came from Poppy Robinson as Abigail Williams and Imogen Romwyn as Betty Parris, and set a precedent for a dramatic show. Alex Edwards provided the audience with a fantastic and unique portrayal of Parris, alongside Thaddeus Davey who portrayed the enigmatic Reverend Hale, while Robbie Haynes delivered and delightfully daunting Danforth. Maddie Penny delivered a heart-warming performance as Elizabeth Proctor, and the cast was exceptionally well-lead by the talented Harry Edwards as John Proctor. The chorus worked tirelessly to knit each of the scenes together, and created a thrilling atmosphere that kept all audience members on the edge of their seats. The directing team is exceptionally proud of their entire cast, chorus and tech team.

## School House:

School House's production of *Peter Pan* was wonderfully entertaining, telling the classic tale of the boy who never wants to grow up, and provided the audience with a hilarity and humour from the get-go, allowing for a fantastic and vibrant show. The enthusiastic cast was well lead by the talented and versatile Nat Ireland as Peter Pan, who showcased his capacity for acting through his wide range of emotions, and was well supported by an eccentric band of pirates (Elliot Mountain as Hook and Tong Wah Chan as Smee) and a loyal group of Lost Boys. Tehya Sutton as Wendy and Rafaella Shiers as Tinker Bell both demonstrated their talent in each of the respective roles, supported by the Darling family including Fred Hunt, Clara Dammann, Ewan Saunders, Sam Wright and of course the highly entertaining dog played by Lachlan Moon. This creative show was delightfully energetic and vivacious with the tech team providing some wonderful effects that highlighted the beautiful set painted by Mhairi Maxwell and Lucy Pennington. The directorial team are immensely proud of all involved and wish them the best of luck for the years to come.

## Porteus House:

Porteus' performance of *Beauty and the Beast* told the well-loved tale of Belle (played by the gifted Emma Belward) who fell in love with the Beast (portrayed wonderfully by Finn Atkinson) despite his outward appearance. Entertaining enactments of the cursed servants were in turn emotional and funny, with portrayals from Charlotte Titterington-Coleman and Benedict Dunn as Mrs Potts and Chip respectively that had a beautiful dynamic, to the duo of Harry Canning and Sanjay Kumarendran as Lumiere and Cogsworth that provided a wonderful humour and also sensitivity to the play.

Phoebe Hall's portrayal of Belle's sister Ada was beautifully pitched, and earned a well-deserved cheer when she showed the vain Gaston (enthusiastically played with heartiness by Freddie Dunn) what he was worth. The lead pairing of Emma and Finn lead the brilliant cast with a stability that was evident, and the versatile and talented chorus played off each other brilliantly. The staging was very clever, often using the chorus as part of the set, allowing for seamless scene changes. It was a wonderful performance and the directorial team are very proud.

## Hutton House:

Hutton's production of *Bugsy Malone* was expertly directed and cleverly adapted. A talented cast told the audience the story of 'Fat Sam' and 'Dandy Dan's battle for power. Developed performances came from Dominic Livesey and Elliot Hutchinson as Fat Sam and Dandy Dan respectively, who skilfully lead a committed cast, including Aisha Preece as Blousey, and Ella Jameson as Tallulah, who both delivered exceptional performances in a mature fashion. The beautifully painted set and the clever use of tabs allowed for a slick performance that we were taken on by talented George Exley as our lead, Bugsy Malone. Hutton delivered a seamless performance that they should very proud of and that audience members enjoyed watching. Very well done, Hutton House!

Katharine Chatterton, U6C



De Grey - *The Crucible*



Hutton House - *Bugsy Malone*



School House - *Peter Pan*

Porteous - *Beauty and the Beast*

Ripon Grammar School is very excited to prepare for this year's school musical, *Billy Elliot*. The performances will be on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of March 2018. Please come and watch what will be a fantastic evening of music, dance and laughter.

# BERLIN TRIP

Im Museum – Inside the museum,  
© Caleb Morton



Eine großartige Achterbahn – A great rollercoaster



Die Berliner Mauer – The Berlin Wall  
(East Side Gallery)



Vor dem Brandenburger Tor – In front of the Brandenburg Gate



“We loved the tour because we managed to see so much in one day.”

Gruppenbesuch des Bundestagsgebäudes mit Blick auf Berlin – Group visit to the German parliament building with a view of Berlin (© Erika Phillips)]



## Exploring the streets, museums, cafés and monuments of

The city makes a striking impression on visitors, with architecture ranging from the bold, colourful and futuristic to deliberate open spaces that reveal the impact of the Nazi era and post-war division, left like scars to prompt remembrance and reflection. In late June, fifteen third formers headed to the vibrant capital with ten GCSE and A level students of German to discover the main attractions and to put their language skills to the test.

The first day began at Checkpoint Charlie, probably the most famous border between East and West Berlin. After navigating a sprawling museum full of fascinating documents, contemporary art, escape stories and vintage memorabilia, we visited a section of the Berlin Wall that still stands above an open-air exhibition about the Third Reich. This presents a vivid picture of Germany’s darkest days and exemplifies the efforts of modern society to come to terms with the past (there is one word for this process in German: Vergangenheitsbewältigung).

There followed a five-hour walk through the centre of Berlin with plenty of stops to learn about the most important developments, from Potsdamer Platz and the Brandenburg Gate to the iconic television tower at Alexanderplatz – Germany’s tallest building. Throughout the tour, I explained the social and historical relevance of certain areas to the group and dropped in some essential German vocabulary. For instance, just a few steps along Unter den Linden, one of the main boulevards, can transport you from the centre of a liberal city that flourished in the Enlightenment to the site of the infamous Nazi book burnings in 1933. There is also a recurring theme of ‘two become one’ that permeates public art and urban design.

### Mr Astley

I enjoyed walking around Berlin and taking in all the beautiful sights and architectural buildings. It was an experience that would impress anyone! **Kurt Sear, 3B**

## “beautiful sights and architectural buildings”

The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe is like nothing I’ve seen before, and I found it very interesting. It’s a great memorial that makes you think carefully about the subject – clearly a dark area for Germans to this day. **Jack Ibbotson, 4E**

After a well-earned rest and a traditional Berlin dinner of sausage in curry sauce with chips (Currywurst mit Pommes), most of the group headed north to the city’s summer fair to enjoy some spectacular rides, live music and a firework display. Those with aching legs retreated to the central hotel, where they could appreciate an impressive view from the roof terrace.

We loved the tour because we managed to see so much in one day. It really brought to life some of the things we had read about in lessons this year. The fair was great, too. The rollercoaster and ghost train were amazing, although we did fear for our lives once or twice! **Ruth Marley and Morgan Hartas, 16**

Our second day began at the Jewish Museum, a wonderfully thought-provoking building that combines documentary exhibits with art installations and real-life stories told by expert guides.

At one point we were invited to walk over some metal discs. Each one was a different shape and size, and upon further inspection each one was a face. A screaming face. They clashed loudly under our feet, filling the room with the echo of metallic screams. We then entered the garden, which contained concrete pillars with trees growing on top, just out of reach. The guide said this symbolised how the Jews couldn’t reach what they needed: they were trapped in a maze. The final room was black and empty with a small light right at the top. **Caleb Morton, 3A**



Der alte Turm und der neue sechseckige Turm  
– The old tower and the new hexagonal tower

Das Denkmal für die ermordeten Juden Europas – The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, © Jack Ibbotson

## Berlin is like stepping into a kaleidoscope.

Continuing the theme of reconciliation, we then visited the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, which stands as a ruin in the centre of West Berlin. Its exhibits include a photo gallery about key moments in the twentieth century, intricate murals and a cross of nails from Coventry Cathedral, which was donated in an act of friendship. The rebuilt section of the church has glass walls that glow a mysterious shade of dark blue. We had lunch in the same area, seeking refuge from a trademark summer downpour before heading to an interactive museum that tells the history of Berlin over the last 800 years.

Walking around the nuclear fallout bunker inside the museum was amazing. The guide was great, so knowledgeable and good at English! All the interactive exhibits made this museum the best one we visited. I especially loved the cinema room and getting to use some interesting equipment.

**Liberty Robinson, 3B**

**“Walking around the nuclear fallout bunker inside the museum was amazing.”**

Most shops in Germany are closed on Sunday, but there was time to buy souvenirs or even chintzy Christmas decorations before a tasty meal at the Hard Rock Café. Once fully recharged, we set off to the government district for an informative evening tour of the parliament building. An audio guide explained both the inner workings of the Bundestag and the panoramic views from high in the sky. After walking around the famous glass dome, we gathered on the roof terrace and discussed the current political situation as the sun began to set.

Our final day began with a walk along the East Side Gallery, a trendy riverside stretch of the Berlin Wall where artists responded to division, reunification and ongoing social struggles with satirical and often psychedelic graffiti. This was a highlight for many, and countless pictures were taken of the paintings and multilingual political statements on display. We were then diverted by some maintenance work on the underground – the city is still being built! – and walked through a residential part of Kreuzberg on our way to Kurfürstendamm, the most famous shopping area. Here students were able to roam around KaDeWe, Europe’s largest department store.

The group was very positive about our visit to Berlin. For many, it was the first time they had come face to face with German culture, while for others the experience of a major European city was something new. Despite some early mornings, dubious customer service, tired feet and even an unexpected encounter with the local police, everyone returned in high spirits, keen to share their stories with friends and family. I was particularly impressed by the students’ curiosity, maturity and stamina. Many thanks to Ms Green and Mr Higson for accompanying the group and to everyone else involved! Das hat doch viel Spaß gemacht, oder?

**Mr Astley**



Top: Members of RGS Fifth and Sixth Form with, centre, Grace Withyman's exchange partner Lina

Right: Albert Savage with exchange partner Simon, during an action-packed day sail-karting on the beach



**In October half term this year, I took part in the school's French Exchange to Bordeaux - an experience which was very new and exciting. Although daunting, after the first meeting with my partner, Inès, we got on very well indeed and it was almost as if the slight language barrier did not really matter at all.**

On the first day in France we travelled to her school for a trip during which we went to the beach near to La Rochelle. During the course of the day we played team games which really helped to break the ice and it was all very enjoyable. The following day was spent at school, which was rather different to what I had anticipated and it was particularly funny to watch people's impressions of characters from the Great Gatsby in an English lesson. The rest of the week was spent with our families and meant we had the chance to enjoy France the French way, trying local delicacies such as oysters and visiting sandy beaches which stretched for miles. We were constantly listening to and speaking in French which became easier and more natural as time went on. [If you want to improve your language skills this is definitely worthwhile and is a great challenge!]

It was a wonderful experience which gave me the opportunity to exercise my French skills while also enjoying true French culture and meeting lots of new people with whom I am sure I will stay in touch. It was sad to say goodbye to my host family but I am sure we will see each other again - and I am very excited for when Inès comes to England.

**Niamh Frost, L6E**

## NEW LANGUAGE PARTNERSHIP



**Ripon Grammar School has just begun a partnership with Realgymnasium der Benediktiner in Lambach, a small town between Salzburg and Vienna.**

Many students of German now have a friendly language tandem partner and can put their skills to the test on a regular basis. In the future, we hope to arrange visits to this lovely part of the world and to welcome teenagers from Austria to England.

For more details, visit the blog: [www.lambachripon.wordpress.com](http://www.lambachripon.wordpress.com)

# SOCIETY LIFE

There are a wide variety of societies for all age groups at Ripon Grammar School. These are great for students to address their intellectual curiosity as well as meet different people to discuss their common interests.

Many of these societies take place during lunchtime, providing students with an extra curricular activity that they can engage with, even if it is just something to do at a break time. These include the Debating Society and the Feminist Society.



In both the Feminist and Debating Societies, there is a cross over between the two, with the slight difference being the common themes of Brexit and President Trump in debating. Gender equality is a key theme in many recent news stories, whether there are women in politics, movements in developing countries in changing education as well as transgender issues. These are all recent issues on a global scale that can be discussed and questioned with great enthusiasm.

*"These societies give me opportunities where I can really enjoy meeting different people with common interests as well as hearing different points of view. They give me the chance to express my opinion as well as learning something new."*

**Katherine Dale U6F**

Film & Literature  
 Feminist Debating  
 Philosophy  
 Human Rights Politics

Some societies are specifically for members of the Sixth Form, giving opportunities for leadership and organisation, as well as a more academic approach to prepare them for their post-school choices. These societies include Human Rights, The Exploration of Foreign Culture, Film and Literature as well as Philosophy and Politics. Some of these societies are purely for enjoyment, however, others are to enhance and enrich students for further education and learning.

Although all societies include specific topics and themes, most include current affairs and topical news stories. The Politics and Philosophy society gives members an opportunity to comment and share their own thoughts and opinions on the most recent changes to government including the continued austerity and the public sector pay freeze. The link with Philosophy gives reasons for political changes by applying philosophical arguments like John Stuart Mill's ideas on Freedom.

*"In the Philosophy and Politics society we discuss current affairs, with many discussions being inspired by stories that are present and in the news. We also enable all members of the society to suggest ideas and topics to discuss, meaning our conversations vary far and wide through a plethora of political and philosophical ideologies."*



**Luke Brotherdale-Smith U6G**

The Film and Literature society is a great example for a society with the right balance of enjoyment and fun along side wider reading and learning. It includes the scholarly study of canonical literature throughout time, but with the amusement of watching the film version. This is an entertaining and intellectual approach to discussion when it comes to different interpretations and adaptations of novels, plays and short stories.

*"In the Film and Literature society, we explore different interpretations of canonical texts, currently The Great Gatsby. I find that this understanding of different readings is essential in having a more in depth and sophisticated grasp of texts, which this society allows its members to explore."*

**Kate Charlton U6F**



Not all societies focus on the students' intellectual interests, but of their extracurricular involvement in wanting to understand global circumstances and to find ways of introducing change. The question, "what can we do?", occurs heavily in the discussion with the help of many organisations such as Amnesty International to prompt ideas for change.

*"Every week, the Human Rights society meet to discuss current topics and issues many people face around the world. In the recent weeks we have discussed the Rohingya Crisis and the impact of the Abortion Act, specifically in Ireland. Learning and engaging with other cultural differences will hopefully develop our awareness of the need to help others."*



**Molly Gallagher L6E**

*"I think that these societies give us a great opportunity to discuss and explore current and global affairs and they provide students with an environment where we can freely express our thoughts and opinions with our peers."*

**Clemmie Lumsden U6D**

## Debating Society

A strong debating squad this year led to fierce competition for a place in the RGS team for the first round of the English Speaking Union Mace, the oldest school debating competition in the world.

Our opponents, Thirsk School, have an exceptional track record: last year losing to Eton in the national finals. However, Gus Smith made a superb start in our first speech, arguing with great aplomb and characteristic flair against the motion: that all elected politicians should be paid the median wage.

Poppy Jagger's speech as seconder was fluent and confident, impressing the audience from a wide range of state and independent schools from across the North East.

Some very challenging points from the floor stretched all four speakers, with a range of complex financial, statistical and philosophical dimensions.

Summary speeches are the most daunting aspect of the evening, with Gus having to speak unprepared to rebut points put to him on the night by the proposers and the floor. His speech was again accomplished and his presentation impressive.

Moral support and sage advice was offered at both the intense planning stage and on the night by Joe Willis and Frank Morgan.

Other schools spoke on topics as diverse as national service and e-sports in the Olympics.

The results were agreed unanimously by the teams and spectators and saw RGS, along with Queen Mary's and Durham Girls' School, through to the next round.

**Mrs Mars**



Gus Smith, L6A and Poppy Jagger, L6C

On a fresh Saturday morning I arrived at School and met up with some of the other students I would be working with. We were divided into twos, and then unleashed on the city of Ripon to speak to residents about what poetry meant to them, or more generally why they were in Ripon that day and what they were getting up to.

It was interesting to see the diversity of answers we got, as well as hearing snippets of conversations around us while we walked around the city. Most of the people we spoke to were friendly and engaging, offering their views on poetry as well as wider topics such as the meaning of life.

After lunch we reconvened in the square before going to the library to turn our notes into some poetry. Everyone wrote around two stanzas on a chosen theme using their own observations as well as the groups. Later on, all our snippets were moulded together into a larger poem which was read out that evening at the Poetry Festival. I was very impressed with the finished product, and found the day creatively stimulating, as I hope everyone else also did.

## POETRY FESTIVAL



### A Ripon Crowd Poem

14th October 2017

By Emma Adams, Samyuktha Dasarathi, Freddie Dunn, Poppy Jagger, Aisha Preece, India Prendergast, James Turner, Mrs Mars and Mrs Seymour

We stood in the square and faced a grey Saturday, looked the public in the eye and started with- "tell me about poetry..."

A rub of a nose, a shrug of a raincoat.  
Not into poetry- my brother writes 'em, she said.  
We don't understand them.  
Some are right bleak.

A flustered face, a puff of cheeks,  
Arm being tugged by a little girl.  
Quite early for this, it's a strange one, he said.  
Maybe if you ask me again at two...

A cowboy hat, a torn waistcoat.  
Bare arms folded, painted with aging tattoos.  
Didn't do poetry at school- I'm not from up here, he said  
Moved from Warwickshire, Met the wife  
Through a radio station...

I wasn't supposed to be here at all.  
There was a hold up on the A1- thought I'd take a look.  
So I pulled over. Nice. It's peaceful.  
I know all about it now: I bought the book.

'Will that do for today?' Received pronunciation  
Like a slap in the face  
It's 'four' not 'fur'  
Standing outside the leper's chapel

Seemed even more ironic  
Ripon is sidelined, they say, looked down upon,  
The prisoner mimics its captor  
Listed houses face grey flats.

But they concrete it under,  
Some antiquity's lost as the roads level off  
Rain causes sandstone to grow over,  
Leaving the gargoyles kissing.

It all seems to be stolen. The culture's bought in  
Prima, Valentino's, Dragon Inn  
As common as the beauty salons  
Offering uniformity

A small fix against the reality of age  
American nails, bought by all  
Imported from the East  
A new home on Yorkshire Dales.

The little red butcher's shop,  
Home of fresh meat  
And the funny bearded man  
And his free therapy session treats.

It makes your teeth soft  
The dishevelled woman cried  
Aye, but Moley needs and ASBO  
The slender fellow replied.

Are you dead or just asleep?  
This noise greeted me  
From the fresh-cobbled carriageway  
Plain for the eyes to see.

We're socialising t' new dogs, you see.  
Isla, Martha and Heidi.  
Come up from Castleford.  
We like them to see a bit of history.

A bleak place, Ripon streets.  
Barefoot, Curfewed and Heckled.  
All hallows to the gallows.  
Hope the Watchman will lead to Eden.

Gothic arches, looming towers  
A garden of souls and flickering memories  
Gold, blue, red, yellow  
Drawing you in with images of past and present.

The rumble of fresh concrete  
The obelisk protruding  
The eroding market place  
Beaten down, decayed, overrun by Home Bargains

Taxi drivers smoke while stalking their prey  
Exploiting good people, just to be paid  
Beware of the trill of the phone at the end  
The caller is certainly not your friend.

The crying of the sky, the breathing of the air  
Composed of a palette of blues and greys  
Flowers attract bees in dying swarms  
Evoke a cacophony of feelings, taking many forms.

Oh, picturesque Ripon, trapped in ancient times  
A watercolour, an oil painting  
Gentle and smudged,  
Flicked on the canvas.

Red and gold lettering outlines  
A close community constrained and cared for  
By a picturesque postcard city in watercolour  
Where everyone knows: Ripon has some charm.

Others find it easy to get stuck, crowded and contained  
By those crumbling and decaying walls  
Which work with the stained-glass of a cathedral  
Hiding what everyone knows: Ripon's got problems.



The following week on Tuesday I journeyed down to London for the Foyle Young Poets award ceremony. I made the journey alone, which I immediately regretted upon arrival in London, as I hadn't quite anticipated the scale of London, walking for 45 minutes to the Southbank Centre on the River Thames. When I arrived I met with the other poets who were attending the ceremony. Most of them were just a

little younger than me, and thankfully most were friendly! It was interesting to find out their approaches to writing poetry, as well as what kind of poetry they wrote.

We then sat while the winners read out their poems and the judges, Sinéad Morrissey and Kayo Chingonyi, gave speeches. Afterwards, while eating canapés, photos were taken of us all. I won several poetry books, some of which I read on the train home. When the ceremony was over I went with some of the other young poets to look round the poetry festival that was taking place in the Southbank Centre, involving a seminar given by poets who discussed their approaches to writing poetry. I really enjoyed the day and gained a lot of useful information from it that will hopefully help my writing process in the future.

James Turner, U6F

# Practice Interviews

A total of sixteen students experienced their practice interviews via Skype, which is a new addition to the process this year.

This will provide a live interview by a method which is now used by lots of companies. Other students participated in interviews by the more traditional method, with face-to-face interviews held by a number of representatives from a wide range of employment sectors.

Two students report on their experience below:

## Skype interview:

I found my interview very helpful as it has prepared me for future interviews and to know what skills employers look for in a candidate, and in their covering letter. The feedback sheet was especially helpful with criticism and advice regarding what went well. My interview was over Skype which was especially useful as many interviews are now taking place in this way, so it helped me prepare for a different type of interview in the future. This means I would be less nervous and feel more prepared. I now know what I need to improve on and what to add to my CV.

**India Hammond, L6D**

## Face-to-face interview:

I really valued the opportunity to have a practice interview. It gave me important life lessons in applying for a future job, such as the use of body language and eye contact. I particularly enjoyed learning about tailoring my CV and personal statement to the place I am applying for, and how to keep my personal statement eye-catching to an employer. I cannot emphasise enough how important practice interviews are and these are certainly skills which I shall employ in the future.

**Oliver Parry, L6D**



# Young Enterprise

Every year, RGS submits at least one team into the Young Enterprise company programme. This year we have entered two teams which is a first for our school; we hope to reach the national rounds which are held in London.

## Nestlers

This year, twelve Lower Sixth students have come together to create a company known as Nestlers, an eco-friendly team that is based on wildlife conservation, in particular the bird population of the UK.



The team is led by Joseph Horner, with the team consisting of Amelia Borchard, Kate Reeve, Sola Sowole, Emma Kelly, Will Peters, India Hammond, Marnie Botros, Poppy Robinson, Oliver Rockey, Poppy Jagger and Bea Handley. The team aims to create more awareness of the breeds of birds and their threats in the world around us, and by selling bird boxes and providing useful information; they hope that this can be achieved.

For further information please email Mr Walker at [walkerb@riponggrammar.co.uk](mailto:walkerb@riponggrammar.co.uk)



## Praesidio

I am the Managing Director for the second team, Praesidio, and our business idea is to sell drink-spike detection tests. Our team consists of eight members, four of whom have director roles. Our first difficulty was finding a supplier for a product that suited our needs, as developing our own would require unobtainable resources.

After having problems with two suppliers in America, we have now found a supplier in the UK and have built a strong relationship with them. We share similar business values and are excited to work with each other.

Our idea has received a huge amount of support and praise especially as drink-spiking is an issue people don't like to talk about and we believe it is time to raise awareness and start really making a difference. So far we are booked in to attend two trade fairs, one in York and one in Harrogate, and we hope to be selling to universities soon.

The Young Enterprise group have supplied us with two wonderful business mentors who work for Vocalink, Richard and Chloe, they help direct us and keep us onto of the task at hand.

**George Vivian, L6F (Managing Director of Praesidio)**

# Mini Medical Interviews [MMIs]

The MMIs are a series of medical interviews, aimed at helping prospective medical students get used to the format of interviews which many medical schools now employ. For many medical courses, students are not given a typical interview because universities like to know how suitable one is for a career in medicine.

Eight clinicians from a wide range of medical areas came in to school on a Wednesday afternoon during November, in order to give us an experience of what to expect and to help us prepare for real medical mini interviews. When we first arrived, we were given an introduction and the panel introduced themselves and explained the order of events.

First, I went into the group discussion where about five students were given a question which we had to discuss. Our question was about staff shortages in the NHS. We were asked what we thought caused the problem and different ways in which we could solve it. We spent time talking about the social, economic and political aspects of the staffing crisis. I found it very useful because we were told how we can improve our technique for future discussions and we know that we need to have an understanding of the many issues surrounding a career in medicine.

We then went on to participate in another type of interview. We spent five minutes on each of the six desks where we would have to explain our viewpoint regarding a particular question. Some of the questions were:

- How would you act if a senior doctor said something racist about a patient when they had left the room?
- What are the dangers of prescribing antibiotics for a viral infection?
- How would you explain to a neighbour that you had accidentally run over their cat?

After these interviews we were given a pack containing feedback written by each interviewer, which was extremely useful as it advised us how we could improve for the future.

Overall, I found the interviews very useful because we were given advice on how we should act in future interviews and we now know the format which many universities use to conduct their interviews for prospective medical students.

**Eve Ison, L6D**



# WORK EXPERIENCE



## 2017 PwC Business Insight Week

**In February of this year, having already secured a work placement at KPMG for Lower Sixth Form Work Experience week, I decided to apply for the PwC Business Insight Week, which I had heard being mentioned at a school careers fair. I had no idea about what to expect, or how lengthy the application process would be.**

First of all I had to submit a general 'CV' that included my GCSE grades, predicted A level grades and any work experience. Then I had to complete two longer answers about why I wanted to undertake work experience in professional services, and why particularly at PwC. From this I progressed to the next stage of the application which was online testing. I had to complete two, forty minute verbal and non-verbal assessments and a work-style preferences questionnaire. Marks and feedback were given on this and then eventually I found out that I had made it through to the telephone interview stage.

Having never done a phone interview before I was pretty nervous and I'm grateful to Mrs Dring who found me a quiet place to do the interview with just a minute's notice! The questions were designed to test my aptitude for the five core competencies of PwC: whole leadership, technical capabilities, business acumen, global acumen and relationship building. I didn't feel like I had answered the questions very well and I then faced an anxious wait to see whether I had been accepted. I finally found out in April that I had secured a place for the week in August.

From this point until literally the day I started there was a steady stream of paperwork back and forwards regarding the practicalities of starting work at a huge firm for a week. We were dealt with as if we were actual employees and this included being sent a nine page contract which detailed, among other things, my rights to holiday and sick pay!

However after such a lengthy process I was absolutely delighted when I stepped out of the lift and into the Eight Floor lobby of PwC Leeds in August. Plenty of my summer had been spent relaxing and I was excited to be doing something which was productive and directly beneficial to my future.

The first day was a chance to meet the fifteen other insight week students from across the North and we were given an introduction into each area of business that PwC is in - including Tax, Assurance and Consulting by Katherine Bond, PwC student recruitment officer for the North. Over the next three days we would shadow a member of each of these teams and really get a taste of what it is like to be a PwC employee.

I enjoyed the three days immensely and one of the highlights was getting to know my 'buddies' - the PwC staff who looked after me and also the four other students at the Leeds office. We were a diverse group with the Insight Week being our only link, so it was a good test of relationship building. My favourite task across the three days of shadowing was probably pitching a long term growth strategy in consulting for a real-life case study. Although I only presented my ideas to a member of the Consulting team, the firm and its problems were real and pitching is something that the consultancy team do on a weekly basis.

On the final day, Friday, we were reunited with the other Northern students and put into groups to create a presentation on the theme of sustainability or technology. My group's task was to pitch a sustainable solution for schools in terms of cutting down energy consumption and resource usage. The task was deliberately set up so that we had to quickly forge a successful working relationship and then pitch a coherent plan with just a few hours to prepare. It was certainly demanding but in the end I felt our pitch went extremely well.

Reflecting on the week, a crucial insight I have taken from it is the importance of developing a professional network as, particularly in businesses like PwC, a lot of work contracts are won by developing a rapport with clients - and on a personal level your career is likely to advance quicker if you can draw on a wide network of people. The importance of creating your own personal 'brand' was also emphasised, and linked to this, making a good first impression. Simple things such as appropriate attire and good eye contact can make a huge difference when people are making instant, subconscious judgements of you.

Overall I would thoroughly recommend the PwC Business Insight Week to anybody wanting to gain work experience at a top global firm and generally push themselves outside of their comfort zone.

Ben Pimley, U6D

# LIBRARY NEWS



## KIDS' LIT QUIZ 2017

On Wednesday 8th November, 4 First and Second Form students made the journey to Bootham School, York to take part in the Yorkshire heat of the Kids' Lit Quiz, hosted by New Zealand Quizmaster and children's book expert extraordinaire, Wayne Mills.

Our team were battling against a number of other schools in the area to get to the UK Finals in London, the winners of which would go on to the International Finals in New Zealand!

The quiz features 10 rounds of 10 questions which change every year. They are not easy – can you answer any of these? (answers are below):

1. What type of animal is Franklin?
2. What superhero's mother was Queen Hippolyta?
3. Gregory Maguire's book Wicked was based on which wicked witch?
4. In the book We Are All Made of Molecules by Susin Nielsen who did Stewart try explaining to that we're all made of molecules?

Rounds this year included topics such as squirrels, babies and book knowledge, with the winning team of each round being able to go and claim books for their prize. There were chances for all of the participating students to win an individual prize of £2 at the end of each round when Wayne asked them a question from the 2016 Kids' Lit World Final. For the audience (mainly made up of librarians and English teachers) there were harder questions with a prize of a £5 book voucher.

Whilst we did not win our team made an excellent effort and should be very proud of themselves!

Answers: 1. A turtle; 2. Wonder Woman; 3. The Witch of the West; 4. His step-sister (Ashley)



# EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES 2017

To celebrate the European Day of Languages on September 26th the library held a series of events.

A display of language facts proved interesting reading; for example, did you know that there are between 6000 and 7000 languages in the world - spoken by 7 billion people divided into 189 independent states? That most European languages belong to three broad groups: Germanic, Romance and Slavic? Or that by 5 years of age, a child possesses a vocabulary of around 5000 words?

There was a lunch time Languages Pub Quiz which asked questions such as "How many languages are spoken in the UK? "(more than 300); or "In which European country is paella a traditional food?"

(Spain); and the quiz also tested the entrants knowledge of capital cities. A second competition asked "What's the language?" on a series of posters showing the word 'hello'. The country's flag was a bit of a give-away!

This year the EDL coincided with the official Macmillan Coffee Morning (29th September) and so, to take full advantage of both we held a European Cake Off!

Students were asked to bake a cake using a traditional European recipe or decorated to represent a European country. Everyone had put in so much effort and really thought about how their bake represented their chosen land. The entries were incredible, from Danish pastries, to a Neapolitan Ice Cream cake, a 'pizza' cake; from an entire Eiffel Tower from our 1st year boarders to the Alps in cake form. It was so difficult to choose a winner that we decided to have different categories so that we could award more prizes.

Once judging had take place the cakes were sliced up and sold off at break time to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. The stall was busy for the whole of break and the total raised was a fabulous £114.46. Well done to all our bakers!

## A BUZZ AROUND BOOKS



Earlier in the term we had another visit from our Patron of Reading, Dave Cryer, to enthuse our First Form students about reading for pleasure and to help them to choose a free book from the national Bookbuzz scheme.

This is an annual event run by Booktrust (<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/b/bookbuzz-2017/>) whereby students are able to choose a book from a selection of titles. The books are vastly discounted and here at RGS the library chooses to fund this treat, enabling the students to choose a book each.

To make them aware of the variety of titles available, all students took part in a half-day workshop where they rehearsed and performed scripts based on the titles in this year's Bookbuzz choice of free books. This encourages the readers to investigate different genres and find out about the books they may not automatically be drawn to.

As two form groups took part in each workshop, it gave our new students the opportunity to meet and work with more of their peers.

Feedback from the event was extremely positive, with the scripts giving the opportunity to learn more about each book.

A massive 98.3% of the students enjoyed taking part in the drama sessions and 84% said the workshop helped them to decide which book to choose for their free title. Even more significantly, 64% stating that the session led them to change their choice once they knew a bit more about the books. Some of the things the students particularly enjoyed were:

*"The fact that as well as finding out about the books we got to act them out."*

*"It was a really fun morning and helped me to get my book list down!"*

*"I enjoyed it when Dave read the start of some of the books out to us."*

*"I enjoyed watching other people's performances."*

*"Being able to make your own script."*



*"It was a really fun morning."*

## A VIKING JOURNEY with Stem Partners

This term the Library has been taking part in Ripon Grammar School's STEM (Science and Engineering, Technology, English and Maths) scheme, which is coordinated by Mrs Schofield, by delivering a literacy session to visiting groups from local primary schools.

The pupils have been working on their descriptive writing to create word poems based on a video, Jotun – Journey of a Viking, which can be viewed on YouTube. With no spoken words, the video is atmospheric and gripping, telling the story of a Viking warrior setting out on a quest through the icy landscape to recover a sacred stone. It contains flashbacks to a mighty battle with a giant.

Year 4 and 5 pupils, from eight different schools, have worked on mind maps, thinking up their best descriptive vocabulary inspired by watching the tale. Wonderful words, such as ear-splitting (the battle), colossal (the giant), screeching (the crows) and desolate (the landscape), were then used to create beautiful, poetic sentences in answer to questions such as, "How would it feel if you were standing in that landscape?" The sentences were then scrutinised to find the best words to use to produce word poems. The poems were then taken back to their primary schools to be written up neatly and decorated for display.

Mrs Dring and Miss Hutchinson have loved working with all the primary pupils and have been thoroughly impressed with their hard work.

## SHARED READING of 'Wonder' by R J Palacio



Back in July, when our current First Form students came on their visit day to RGS, each of them was lent a copy of the book 'Wonder' by R J Palacio which they were asked to read during the summer break.



This is a fabulous book which tells the story of a boy, August, who was born with a severe facial difference and has been home schooled up until secondary level. We share his journey as he joins peers in a mainstream school, with all the ups and downs that entails. The book tackles issues such as bullying, friendship, acceptance and perseverance and does it all in a beautiful, heartbreaking and yet uplifting way.

Reading 'Wonder' ties in nicely with work the first form do around national Anti-Bullying week and in their Library Lessons they have been thinking about the motivational precepts or mottos which we meet in the book. They have designed their own posters to be displayed around school. Here are some of the best ones.

Later this term we will be using 'Wonder' as inspiration for a creative writing task and competition. Students will have a choice of approaches from the following:

- Use one of the precepts from the book as a basis for your own story
- Re-tell part of the Wonder story from the point of view of one of the adults in the novel
- "I know I'm not an ordinary ten-year-old boy..." Use the book's opening line to start your own, totally different story

We await the results of the competition with bated breath!

Mrs Dring



# SPORT NEWS

Inter Girls' cross-country Team



## Rock Climbing

Fourth Former, Marijke Booth, joined around 200 other competitors in Edinburgh, to take part in one of the UK's largest national climbing competitions, the Scottish Youth Lead Climbing Championships on 9th September.



Marijke nearing the top on her final route

Presently competing in a category for girls born in 2002 and 2003, Marijke is one of the younger climbers in her category. Both of Marijke's qualifying routes were on the main wall which is used for World Cup events and has the steepest angle of all.

Marijke qualified for the finals in first place, being the only climber to top both routes; the first route was topped by three climbers and the second by just two.

Six girls in Marijke's category made the finals, the route being very technical with a horizontal section just before the finish. Technical routes not only require physical strength and stamina but also an ability to 'read' them correctly, as it is possible to go the wrong way and get stuck. The bigger more physical moves are often placed further up the wall to be done when the climber is more fatigued, where a fall is less dangerous but can feel more frightening. In the finals there is everything to play for as the qualifying position doesn't count; the winner is the person who climbs highest. Marijke finished two moves from the top, giving her a clear win over the others. This was a well-deserved first place.

Having started climbing 7 years ago, a much older age than many of her peers, and with an ever-increasing training load, Marijke has been training 6 days a week for the past 2 years. This summer's training has included a week in Austria with her two world class coaches and fellow British Team members.



## Girls' cross-country

Well done to the inter girls' cross-country team who travelled to Sevenoaks School in Kent for the national cross-country cup finals which took place on Saturday 25th November.

Even with a long journey down on Friday and an overnight stay, the girls rose to the occasion.

The girls finished as the 20th best school in the country a remarkable achievement for all involved. The course started around the schools playing fields and then narrowed into neighbouring woods where an undulating route over rough terrain had been chosen. A tough hill out of the woods came just before a 400m flat run to the finish. Perfect running weather conditions saw some fantastic performances with all girls pushing themselves to the finish.

The top performer on the day was Mena Scatchard who finished an excellent 10th position in a field of over 150. The other runners were Molly Acton, Christa Wilson, Helena Da Costa, Ella Foster and Isabella Binks. Millie Lock was also part of the winning regional final team.

The hockey First XI has had a very successful start to the year. After winning our first few friendlies, the team entered the National Cup competition.

This started with the Area round, in which we played Ashville, Queen Ethelburga's and Giggleswick. Winning all of the matches meant that the team finished in first place, and progressed to the County round. This tournament consisted of playing St Peter's, Ampleforth, Scarborough College, Queen Ethelburga's and Queen Margaret's. This was a harder fought competition, but again the team managed to finish in first place.

## Hockey Round Up

Having been crowned Area and County champions the next round for the team was the north-east finals. After finishing second in our pool, the semi-final was against GSAL. This was a very tough match, which we sadly lost and so didn't progress to the North of England finals.

Other than this tournament, both the First and Second team has had success in many friendly matches, against teams such as Yarm and Hill House.

As well as outdoor hockey, we have entered a team into the indoor hockey National competition, and the team are looking forward to the North qualifying round.

**Ella Durkin, U6A (Captain)**



## Pétanque

David with the current world pétanque shooting champion, Annecy 2017

Pétanque is a fast-growing international sport of the 'boules' family, the rules of which were laid down in France in the early 1900s. The sport is most usually played in doubles or triples formats, with 6 balls per team that are thrown as close as possible to a wooden jack 6 to 10 metres away from the players' throwing circle; a common throw is to 'shoot' or knock opponents' close balls away.

The winning team is the first to reach 13 points with scoring similar to that of bowls. Games can be played on almost any flat, open space where the ground may be irregular and the surface likely to be uneven, with some areas hard and smooth and other areas rough and stony. In France, village squares and park pathways are often used as pétanque playing areas. In addition, many towns have recreational facilities (boulodromes) constructed especially for playing pétanque.

World Championships take place every two years, with European Championships played in the other years. The Women's and Youth World Championships were held in November this year in China, one of a number of emerging nations doing well at the sport. However, the French, Madagascans and Thais currently dominate, with strong competition from the many African and Far Eastern countries with former links to France. Whilst still a minority sport in England, with about 10,000 players, standards are rising and podium finishes have begun.

David Blyton, Y10, started playing with his father (a former British Champion team member) as a young child and in the last two years was selected as a member of an 8 player national youth squad. He has played internationally in Slovakia (2016), France (2017) and was a member of England Team 2 last July in the first youth international to be held in this country. He narrowly missed out on being selected to go to the World Championship in China last month but has his sights firmly set on trying to be selected for the 2018 European Championships. He trains at a local club in his home village of North Stainley. David has been selected to play for England again in Annecy next February, in a large event at a bouledrome near the Alps.



## First XV rugby match report

This season has proven to be one of the school's most successful.

The season started strongly with a 41-12 win against Ashville College. Since then the team has gone from strength to strength, leading to the school's finest run in the NatWest National Vase, beating Worksop College on 22 November in a very close 15-14 game and in tough playing conditions.

However, Ollie Williams secured the win with a penalty kick in the last play of the game. The next round of the cup, the quarter final, has been drawn against Sir William Borlase's Grammar School from Buckinghamshire, and the team hope to continue their success with another win. We also have the Yorkshire Cup to look forward to later in the season.

James Willis, U6A



Team photo: Post victory against Worksop College on 22 November

## Rugby

There's big news for rugby player Ted Wainwright, as he has been selected to train with the Under 17's England squad. Ted has been playing for Yorkshire Carnegie for the last 3 years and was chosen in late September for the England squad. They have a forthcoming game in April against France in which Ted is hoping to be selected to play for the team. We wish him the best of luck!

# RUGBY TOUR to Paris



After several months of planning and eager anticipation, the U15s rugby team were set to depart for the 'Racing 92 Rugby Tour'.

Several group pictures were taken of the team in our new track suits and warm-up shirts, before getting on the bus to leave Ripon. A special thank you must go to Ripon Uniform shop for their support in providing the travel wear.

After many hours of sitting and singing on the bus, and waiting for delayed ferries, the team arrived at the hotel in Paris. Shortly after arrival we headed to the first fixture against local opposition Noisy-Le-Sec. It was a tough game but we came out victors, despite the large crowd of people watching and supporting the home team. Then we were invited to the clubhouse for food and presentations. We were gifted with a Noisy-Le-Sec shirt and banner and their Captain was presented with a RGS tie. We then headed to the Stade Jean-Bouin to watch Stade Français play London Irish in the European Challenge Cup. A very exciting, high-scoring game ensued and to our delight the exiles won 44-7. After the game we returned to the hotel for the night.

Breakfast in the hotel was followed by a stadium tour of the Stade de France. We had a good look around and even visited the on-site police prison cells and the huge changing rooms. We also had a rendition of Sweet Caroline, sung from the top tier of the ground! An enjoyable afternoon of swimming and bowling brought an end to a relatively relaxing day.

Day 4 brought our first training session at Racing 92 with their coaches. Some new drills and ideas were provided for us and after the first training sessions we were invited to have a look at the gym and other training facilities at the ground. While in the club gym we had the opportunity to shake hands and take pictures with some members of the first team at Racing, including Joe Rokocoko, ex All Black and Bernard Le Roux, South Africa back row.

That evening we played our second fixture against Bobigny 93. The national anthems were sung before we once again beat the French opposition. Afterwards we had some food in the clubhouse and had fun talking to the French players before returning to the hotel.

The final day sprang quickly upon us and consisted of another interesting training session at Racing. But sadly we then got on the bus for the last time as we set off for home.

Of course this excellent tour did need a lot of time and effort being put into the planning. So, on behalf of the whole team, I wish to thank Mr Milner and Mr Harding for putting together the tour for us. Great memories of two victories, lots of laughs and fun that will stay with us for ever.

**Ben Rickard, 4E**





## CHARITY WEEK

On Monday 16th October, our annual Charity Week began. This year the Sixth Form chose to raise money for Candlelighters, a charity very close to the school's heart.

Candlelighters is a fantastic charity based in Yorkshire which supports the families facing children's cancer, and is involved in different projects to help families who are facing extraordinary situations. The money that the school raised over the week will be used by Candlelighters to provide financial support for families, therapies and support services, fund holidays for children with cancer and run other events such as Halloween and Christmas parties.

The week opened with a bang when the Upper Sixth performed a dance battle on the main stage, and throughout the week activities and performances were held at lunchtime and break to raise money. Some highlights of the week were the talent show where students from all year groups got involved in total wipe-out and sumo-wrestling in the Sports Hall; a rap battle between 'Higgy-rascal' (Mr Higson) and 'MC Chambo' (Mr Chamberlain); musical performances from Mr Walker, as well as man-choir covering 'Not Afraid' by Eminem, and finally the staff pantomime which this year was Frozen, starring Miss Green and Mr Griggs, who gave unforgettable performances!

The after-school activities were also a success - Disney's Moana was enjoyed by many at the First Year film night, and 170 of our students attended the 'colour run' after school on Wednesday. There were also many other fundraising activities going on throughout the week, such as our non-uniform day on Thursday, and each Form had to organise a stall or run a competition. Ideas ranged all the way from a raffle, to choosing the music for Friday's Assemblies, to teachers dressing up as fairies and getting sponged by students.

Overall, the week was a huge triumph. It provided a week of excitement and fun compared to a typical week at school, and at the same time an amazing sum of money was raised for a very worthwhile cause, with the final total being more than £11,400.

### Niamh Frost, L6E

From teachers rapping to boarders dancing...charity week had it all. Although the week was filled with fun and games the sentiment behind it was never forgotten. We were raising money for Candlelighters, a charity which supports families dealing with children's cancer in Yorkshire. Our grand total is £11,439.45 and we would like to thank everyone who took part, donated generously and made the week unforgettable.

### The School Officers



## NEWS FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



This term the PA has donated nearly £6,000 to school for a wide variety of equipment in response to bids from several different departments, including a new projector and larger screen for the main hall which will benefit not just the pupils but parents invited in for various presentations – and possibly another 'Singalong' film night fundraiser at some point!

We have also funded a new 3D printer, kit for various sports teams, a drying rack for the art department, canvas mounts for photographs of the history department trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau and last but not least a contribution towards membership of the National Schools Equestrian Association for our small but successful RGS riding club!

Our fundraising this term has been fairly low key. We began the academic year with the annual cheese and wine quiz night – great fun and hugely successful! This raised nearly £500, and was followed with the festive 'Food and Christmas goodies' evening as an alternative to the fairy-lit Christmas fair held in previous years. Our coffers have, however, been funded by ongoing refreshment sales – so do please buy a cuppa at the parents' evenings, drama nights etc as, over the course of a year, we raise more than £2,000 thanks to the hard work of all our volunteers who pour the tea and the home bakers. We also enjoyed the annual 'mince pie fest' (and mulled wine) at the Christmas carol concert in the Cathedral and, for most of us on the committee, this really does mark the start of Christmas!

Next term we have two new events planned: we are holding a 'Race Night' at Bishop Monkton village hall, £10 admission and that includes supper and a licensed bar, so get your Racing Post and buy your tickets! This will be a lively and competitive evening as you try to pick your winners...or even "buy" a racehorse for the evening! To be held on 3 February.

We also have an evening with Sir Gary Verity, who was responsible for bringing the Tour de France to Yorkshire. This will be very much a "bike" evening! and will include an opportunity to try out a Wattbike, together with bike "jumble" and a Q & A session. Tickets once again cost £10, and refreshments will be available. To be held on 8 February.

The PA is always happy to welcome new committee members and volunteers, so do contact me if you would like any further information. Tickets for our events can be bought from Mrs Kinread in school reception or via Parent Pay.

Happy Christmas!

Julia Whitham, RGSPA Chair

# PHOTO CLUB

Members of the RGS Photographic Club took these photos in and around Ripon, with the theme of Autumn. Some were taken in the allotments next to School and others in Hackfall Woods.



A - B: Lucy Pringle, 4B C - D: Ellie Currass, 1C E - F: Caitlin McKeag, 1D  
G - H: Annabelle Paterson, 4B I - J: Mr Davis K: Emma Adams, 4C



## FOOD AND NUTRITION TRIP TO LONDON

On Thursday 5th October the Food and Nutrition GCSE students set off by train to London for the day.

After arriving at Kings Cross we travelled to the Tate Modern via St Pauls Cathedral and the Millennium Bridge. We departed the Tate Modern and walked past Shakespeare's Globe before arriving at Borough Market for lunch.

When we arrived it was very busy and mouth-watering aromas filled the air. We sampled delicious street food for lunch such as hoisin duck wraps, prawn udon noodles, pulled pork burgers and much more. After a quick lunch we watched Borough Market's cookery demonstrations before looking around the wondrous stalls selling organic fresh fruit juices, handmade chocolates and fudges and unique fruit, vegetable, cheese and spice stalls, all selling exotic items that no one had ever heard of before! Later in the afternoon we walked along the river and over the famous London Bridge before travelling back to Kings Cross and then home again. It was a truly amazing trip.

Araminta Praud, 5E

## RESTART A HEART



Around 200 students at RGS took part in the European Restart a Heart Day on Monday, 16 October 2017, where they took part in a 30 minute practical session of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training.

If someone suffers a cardiac arrest, their chances of survival double if it happens in front of a bystander who immediately starts CPR before the arrival of a paramedic. One of our Year 7 students has written a report, as follows:

Monday, PSHCee, and time for the 'restart a heart' lesson! Probably all of us were filled with dread in anticipation of having to do mouth-to-mouth at the sight of 30 or so dummies lying lifelessly.

Once the medics had introduced themselves, and we had cleaned the dummies' heads!, a video was shown, the first part of which was about chest compressions. This part was quite good fun, and we were told that we should hear a 'click' if we pushed down hard enough. So, all of us were excitedly waiting for the 'click'. Some of us managed, and enthusiastically kept going, whilst others looked about in disbelief at those who had triumphed whilst they were trying so hard but failing to reach the goal.

Next came the 'rescue breath', or as most people thought of it, the dreaded 'mouth-to-mouth'. We did all the preparation that we needed to do before it came to ..... breathing for the dummy! We were told that if we had done everything correctly we should see the chest rising. Most of us were good at this, but some forgot to pinch the nose. This meant that whilst you were thinking 'why isn't the chest rising?' others were soaring through to the next stage.

After that we practiced the whole process a few times; 30 chest compressions, 2 rescue breaths, 30 chest compressions and so on, at which point many of us felt a sigh of relief.

Even though the majority of us may not have relished the experience, we definitely came out knowing that, if needed, we now have the vital ability to save a life.

Anna Bradley, 1A