

IN BRIEF

Congratulations to George Lamb

on being selected for the under-13 Yorkshire schools cricket team.

Congratulations to Natalie Clayton and George Hobson

who have been selected (against rigorous criteria!) via the School Sports Partnership to take part in a residential

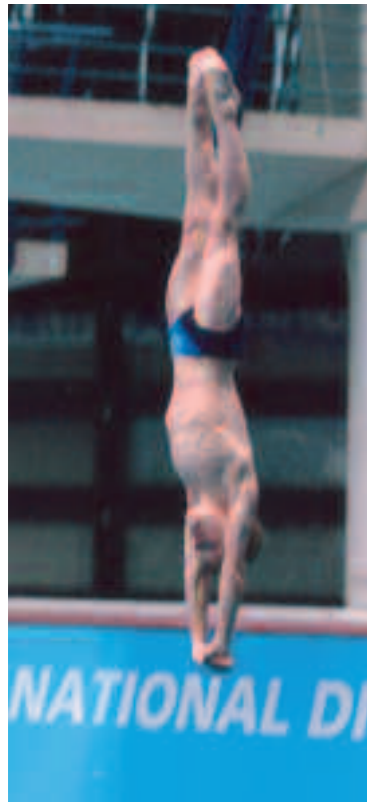
leadership skills course at Beverley Park this summer. The programme is the only one of its kind currently operating a co-ordinated approach to leadership and volunteering in 'Physical Education and School Sport'. It is fully funded by the DFES and the North Yorkshire School Sports' Partnerships and is free to pupils.

Congratulations to Matthew Pickles, George Ogram and Dan Craven

who all have been selected for the under-19 North Yorkshire schools cricket side and who will be taking their trials for the Yorkshire side on Monday 2nd July – good luck to them!

Congratulations to Ellis Hall

for being selected for the under-13 Harrogate & District schools cricket side.



Congratulations to Oliver Ward

for his place in North Yorkshire school's under-15 cricket side.

Congratulations to Jack Laugher

of 1B (article in Easter edition) on his recent performance in the ASA Elite Junior Diving Championships held in Sheffield at the end of May. Jack took silver on the 5m platform – a personal best! Also, he defended his title in the 3m synchronised event with Harry Gower from Luton Kingfishers – well done! Jack has been invited to take part in the Senior Nationals in Manchester, against divers who have been competing for Great Britain for some time. Jack will be spending a week in Sweden this summer on a training camp too. Next stop – the 2012 Olympics!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September 2007

3rd	Staff training day
4th	School opens
6th	Governors' Wine and Cheese Evening - 7pm
13th	School photos
14th	Sixth form tea - 4pm
18th	1st year CATs
21st	1st year Informal Parents' Tea - 4.15pm
2nd	Parents' Association Market Stall - 8.30am
28th – 30th	Sixth form Art Trip to Cornwall
28th	PA Wine Tasting Evening

October

10th – 14th	Sixth form Art Trip to Paris
11th	PAAGM & Governors' meeting with parents 8pm
12th – 16th	U6th form geography field trip
15th – 19th	Charity Week
19th	School closes at 3.55pm for half term
23rd – 3rd Nov	French exchange in France
29th	Staff training day
30th	School opens; Autumn Concert - 7pm

November

1st	U6th form Parents' Evening - 4.30 – 7pm
2nd	Speech Day - 2pm (lower school return home at lunchtime)
8th – 9th	House drama competition
12th – 16th	4th Year examinations week
13th	5th Year Parents' Evening - 4.30 – 7pm
14th – 18th	6th form RE trip to New York
19th – 23rd	L6th form assessment week
22nd	3rd year Beverley Park information evening - 7.30pm
26th	2nd year Parents' Evening - 4.30 – 7pm
27th	The 'R' Factor Final (Ripon College)

December

1st	PA Dinner / Dance - 7.30pm
12th	Girls' swimming sports
15th	Old Riponians' Day (rugby and hockey)
17th	Boys' swimming sports
20th	Carol Service, Ripon Cathedral - 7.30pm
21st	School closes at 12.30pm

January 2008

7th Jan	Staff training day
8th	School opens

For further information please contact us:

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FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to Emily Steed, my Assistant Editor, for her hard work and contribution towards this edition. If any pupil, staff member or parent should be interested in writing an article for the next edition of RGS News, or suggesting content, please contact Mrs Stevens or get in touch on stevensf@ripongrammar.co.uk

RGS news

WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents

I hope this edition of the RGS News finds you well and looking forward to some sunshine and a break from the usual routines.

The term has been its usual busy and frenetic self, and even the exams seem a long time ago! The results of exams taken by the fifth and sixth forms will appear in August, and I hope that they will reflect the commitment and hard work demonstrated by staff and students alike. The results from summer 2006 were a record, certainly at A level, and for them to be matched will be a truly exceptional effort. I hope the fifth and sixth forms will be pleased with the outcome.

The end of the first year of specialist status has seen a year of real progress. The fifth year have sat statistics GCSE. Some of next year's fourth form will be sitting mathematics GCSE a year early, and next year's fifth form will be sitting GCSE astronomy. The observatory needs planning permission, but as soon as this secured then it will be installed in the school grounds. The refurbishment of the science block will be completed over the summer, as well as a significant amount of maintenance and painting. The new classroom block will be ready for the new term as the builders have managed to complete the project ahead of schedule and on budget. The new block will house the Mathematics department, and the new engineering/design and technology room as well as a new drinking fountain!

The main piece of news is that planning permission has now been granted for the sports hall, and as soon as funding is in place then it can be built. Funding is still a major issue because the school has only around 50% of the total costs. The rest will need to be raised, and any help with this will greatly be received. A sportsmans' dinner could raise some funds but more importantly will raise the profile of the need for this facility, not only for the school but also for the community. The joint sixth form block with Ripon College has been granted planning permission and this will allow the development of a facility which will benefit all post-16 students in Ripon. It will sit on the Grammar School site, and groups of sixth-form students from the College will use it as well as our own. It will provide private study space which is lacking at the moment, as well as access to a performing arts space and an engineering room as well as new labs specifically for sixth-form use.

It is with sadness always at this time of the year that we say farewell to a number of staff. Our sincere thanks go to Dr. Saunders who has taught here for over 30 years and has worked in many different roles within school. Currently assistant head, he has been head of chemistry and boarding housemaster. The affection with which he is held in school is very clear when he was taken ill recently the students responded by showering him with get well soon cards and messages. His wise counsel and calm manner, as well as his encyclopaedic knowledge of the school site and of his subject will be missed. I am sure he will enjoy getting his golf handicap down, watching his beloved Middlesbrough and finding time to do all the things he has not been able to do. Following in Dr. Saunders' footsteps will be Mr. Auger, the new Assistant Head, who is currently Head of Mathematics at Wetherby High School.

Mr. Newlands returns to his Quaker roots leaving RGS to take up a physics post at Bootham School in York, and we thank him for his contribution to the Physics department. Mr. Newlands will be replaced by Mr. Walker (that's a new Mr. Walker by the way!). Joining Mr. Walker in the Physics department as Head of Physics, will be Mr. Griggs, currently Head of Science in a large school in Essex. Miss Passerat returns to France after five very good years here, and our best wishes go to her for a happy future. She will be replaced by Ms. Genneviève who is currently teaching in Barlby School.

Mrs. Johnson takes up a food technology post at St. John Fisher's in Harrogate, and she has made a fine contribution to the Technology department, especially liaising with the partner junior schools in our engineering bid. She will be replaced by Miss Newcombe, who joins us from Billingham School, and will also teach some girls' PE. Mrs. Kemp has left and will be replaced by Miss Raymer, whilst Mrs. England currently Head of Classics leaves Ripon Grammar School at the end of term. She has nurtured a subject which has struggled in many schools to retain its position on the curriculum, and it has an enthusiastic following. We also say goodbye to Mr. Freitag, the German gap student, who has made an outstanding contribution to the boys' boarding house and in supporting our students studying German. He will be replaced by Mr. Dittrich.

I hope you will enjoy reading the RGS News, and I look forward to seeing you all again in the new academic year. Thank you for your continued support of the school, which helps to make it such a popular and successful part of Ripon life.

M L Pearman
(Headmaster)

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2007

The Biology department launched a new photography competition this year inviting students from across the school to try their hand at capturing the essence of Spring on camera. A judging panel consisting of Mr Williams (Head of Biology), Mr Duckworth (Head of Art) and Lucy Whitton (Head Girl) eventually awarded prizes in Senior and Junior categories to two well-deserving images.

Clinton Lowe (5B) scooped the Senior title with a stunning black and white image of a daffodil – the use of tone and composition were both highly praised by Mr Duckworth. The Junior prize was awarded to **Andrew Everett (2B)** for his image of a frog in grass. It seemed to capture the simple beauty of the Spring landscape and was a well-constructed image. The final results were as follows:

Senior

1st Clinton Lowe (5B)
2nd Amelia Tearle (4E)
3rd Tim Robinson (5D)

Junior

1st Andrew Everett (2B)
2nd Jack Thompson (3D)

Congratulations to Andrew and Clinton who both receive a year's subscription to BBC Wildlife magazine. Look out for next year's entry details. Mr R Williams.



DR BARRY SAUNDERS

Dr Saunders retires this summer after 32 years of service at Ripon Grammar School. Dr Saunders studied Chemistry at Nottingham University where he also completed his PhD in reaction kinetics. Following three years at the University of British Columbia in Canada as a post doctoral Teaching & Research Fellow, he came back to the UK to look for a suitable job. While he searched for the right opportunity, he took a short notice, stop-gap teaching job at King Edward VI School in Stafford to help out the school following the death of a chemistry teacher. He enjoyed his first terms so much that he decided to make teaching his career.

Dr Saunders moved to Ripon Grammar School in 1975 as second in Chemistry, and soon became Head of Chemistry following the appointment of his predecessor, Mr Postlethwaite, as Deputy Headmaster. Throughout the 25 years of his leadership, Chemistry was recognised as a very strong department, both in terms of exam results and the popularity of the subject. In 2001, Dr Saunders was promoted to become Assistant Headteacher at which point I came to the school to replace him as Head of Chemistry. I am personally very grateful for the very healthy department that Dr Saunders passed on to me

and for the help, guidance, experience and support he has given me in the years since. It has been a privilege to work with Dr Saunders.

His classes have benefited from his excellent teaching and his knowledge of Chemistry never ceases to impress those who work with him who consult this fount of chemical knowledge for all chemical queries. As he has moved into other areas of responsibility within the school, he has never lost his great passion for teaching chemistry.

When previous Headmaster, Mr Jones, established the first senior team to lead and manage the school, Dr Saunders was chosen as a member and has been ever since. He has had many other responsibilities and roles in his time at the school including writing the school timetable, being in charge of staff professional development, and more recently as the premises manager and exams officer. He was also pioneering in the introduction of computers into teaching and school administration. For many years he also coached rugby and cricket teams. For some time, Dr Saunders was Senior Housemaster and lived in School House with his family. In fact, he met his wife, Janet, at the school where she worked as a music teacher. His two children, Nicole and Peter were also educated here.



Dr B Saunders proudly receives a retirement gift from the 6th Form who commissioned the portrait from Dan Lowe, a member of the Art A Level Course.

Dr Saunders has spent most of his working life at Ripon Grammar School and is universally popular with colleagues, pupils and parents, many of whom he taught. He will be greatly missed by all, in particular by his colleagues in the Chemistry department and the Leadership team who have had the pleasure of working closely with him. He has many plans for his retirement, including much time on the golf course and some charity work and we all wish him well for a long and happy retirement.

Dr R Grime

FAREWELL!

Miss V Passerat

Having joined the Modern Languages department in September 2002 and given five years of excellent service to the school, Miss Passerat is now moving back to her home country. As well as teaching French throughout the school and General Studies in the Sixth Form, she has been a dedicated form tutor with pupils in the first, second and fourth years. Miss Passerat has also contributed to the extra-curricular life of the school by accompanying the school ski trip and by joining in with the annual French exchange. We wish her well and thank her greatly for her contribution.

Mr S Smith

Mr R Newlands

Mr Newlands joined the Physics department in September 2004 after teaching at Harrogate Grammar School and Lawnswood School in Leeds. During his time at RGS he has taught physics and general studies, as well as advanced extension physics to our most able upper sixth form physicists. Mr Newlands has enjoyed working in the physics department and as a sixth form tutor. He is leaving to go to take up a post at Bootham School in York and we would like to wish him all the best in his new school.

Mr D Clarke

Mr Clarke is leaving the physics department and we would like to thank him for his assistance and hard work since Christmas. We wish him well in the future.

Mrs V Deighton

Mrs R Kemp

Mrs Kemp has been teaching at Ripon Grammar School for over 14 years and during that time she has worked hard to improve the skills of all the girls she has taught. She has given a considerable amount of time and effort to after school and lunchtime clubs and practices, and her enthusiasm has contributed to a very high standard of girls' teams in both summer and winter games over the years. We thank her for all she has done and wish her every success and happiness in her next venture.

Mrs C Whitham

Mrs G England

In September 2000 Ripon Grammar School welcomed a new teacher of classics into its fold. Since then Mrs England has conveyed her enthusiasm for the subject to pupils ranging from the second year, who were being introduced to Latin for the first time, to those who chose to study Latin and classical civilisation at AS and A2 levels. This traditional subject was brought kicking and screaming into the 21st century with the Classics Club, founded and run by Mrs England (Minimus the Latin mouse, who advertised the club, is remembered with fondness). As well as being a dedicated subject teacher Mrs England has been a valued member of two pastoral teams within the school; in the role of form tutor to second and third year pupils and, in more recent years, to lower and upper sixth students. Congratulations on your new post, Mrs England, your pearls of wisdom and Latin advice will be missed.

Mrs S Wright

Mrs J Johnson

Mrs Johnson joined the design technology team at Christmas 2003, coming from Harrogate Grammar School on a part-time basis. Although a food technology specialist, she taught across the design technology subjects in KS3 including materials and graphics work. Last year she also enabled the school to offer food technology to groups in the 4th year. She brought to the school a breadth of knowledge and experience and was involved in going into junior schools to assist their DT provision. She is moving to work at St John Fisher's in Harrogate, teaching food technology to all levels including 'A' level. We wish her and her daughter, Alice, all the best for the future.

Mr D Rudland

Mr J Moss

Mr Moss joined the IT management department on a one year contract in August 2006 as the Apprentice Technician. In addition to his duties in that department he has assisted in the PE department as umpire and coach with the hockey teams. The material on the display screen in the hall entrance owes much to his creative expertise and cajoling the members of staff to supply the content. We thank him for all his efforts and wish him well in all his future endeavours.

Mrs M Blackburn

Mrs A Noble

Mrs Noble, the Headmaster's Secretary, is also leaving us for pastures new. We wish her all the very best for the future. She will be replaced by

Mrs P Storey

The Inaugural Sports Science Day!

On the 25th April, 120 first form pupils undertook an entire day devoted to sports science.

The day was the brainchild of Mr Rudland, Director of Engineering, who wanted to give the day a cross-curricular theme involving physical education, biology and food technology.

Donning coloured t-shirts, sponsored by Ian Stokoe from Justsport in Newcastle, the students were divided into teams from the six strands of the PE national curriculum – games, gymnastics, athletics, dance, swimming and outdoor adventurous activities (for example Team Marathon and Team Jazz) – and set about the day's challenge.

In Physical Education Mr Casey and Mrs Mackenzie introduced various fitness concepts such as agility, balance, endurance and flexibility, questioning the students on which attributes an athlete from their allocated team would require, for example a rock climber requiring arm strength.



Head of Biology Mr Williams and Mr Miller introduced the topics of respiration, where the students learned about how the rate and depth of their breathing changed during exercise, and circulation, discovering how a trained heart differs in size when compared with an untrained heart and is more efficient at pumping blood around the body. The general physiology of human movement was also covered in terms of musculature and skeletal development.

In Food Technology Mrs Johnson and Mr Rudland discussed the diet an athlete might need to follow at various times of the year including the pre-season and competition phases of their activity. Nutritional information was provided and, with this in mind, the students had to make their own lunch according to their allocated team's requirements.



In the afternoon the students worked together in their teams to produce a presentation poster and factsheet about a famous athlete from their team. For example Team Marathon chose to pursue a day in the life of Paula Radcliffe while Team Aqua chose Ian Thorpe and Team Tumble chose British gymnast Beth Tweddle. These posters were then displayed in the gym and each team completed a feedback sheet on each of the displays to decide the eventual winner – Team Breakdance!

There were also awards for teamwork throughout the day and best training regime. Medals were provided by Andrew Ebbage from Jamie's Trophies of Ripon. Overall the pupils had a wonderful day. Evaluation sheets highlighted everyone's enjoyment of working with friends they wouldn't normally work with, experiencing something a little different from the norm and learning information in a fun and exciting way. We hope there will be more cross-curricular themed approaches to learning in the future!

Mrs H Mackenzie



AUF WIEDERSEHEN KNUT!



Guten Tag!

My name is Knut Freitag from Germany. For those who don't know, I have just completed a gap year at Ripon Grammar School starting in September last year. I mainly helped Mrs. Lofthouse in the German Department and really enjoyed working there.

Living in the boarding house was great fun. I got involved in the activities and helped boarders with German during prep. Besides the 4th and 5th year groups I mainly worked with the 6th form German classes in conversation lessons on A-level topics and on exam preparation. I accompanied the work experience trip for the L6th in Germany at the end of the year when we went on a great week to Hildesheim.

I was really glad that I also got involved in the music department, which has been a fantastic experience and I learned a lot there helping in class. I played in the "Grease Band" and occasionally I played the drums in the Big Band and went on a cool week to Germany with them.

In the holidays and at the weekends I tried to travel around Britain to see as much as possible of the UK. I just cannot believe how quickly the time has passed by, so I just would like to thank some people for making my time at RGS so pleasant: thanks to Mr. Lancaster, Mrs. Lofthouse, School House, Sam and the 6th form German groups.

When I go back to Germany I am hoping to get a place at university to do a degree in Language and Communication. Looking back on the past year I have to say that I am so glad that I decided to take a gap year in England. Although Ripon isn't the biggest city in the world, I couldn't think of a better placement.

Vielen vielen dank,

Knut Freitag

LOWER SIXTH WORK EXPERIENCE IN GERMANY

Pupils taking part: Thomas Brown, Daniel Lee, Christian Mackintosh, Kate Bruce, Rachael Thomson, Chloë l'Anson and Rosemary Currie.

Encouraged by successful work-experience placements in Germany in past years, this year's Lower Sixth German group have all undertaken their Sixth Form work experience in Hildesheim in Northern Germany. With three pupils employed as assistants in a large secondary school, two working with an ophthalmologist, and two in separate engineering companies, they were able to enjoy a wide variety of activities. Their various jobs involved teaching English to 10-19 year olds, working with children with visual impairment, reception duties, making computer numerical control machines, and helping in a department designing car components for Audi, Porsche and BMW.

Chris decided to combine his work placement with an exchange visit and therefore experienced German family life at first hand. Chloë and Rose, however, had a very different first hand experience when they were present at two eye operations. Dan was privileged to be involved in the design of parts for a prototype BMW, and "Fesser's" engineering company was sufficiently confident in Tom to allow him to assemble the computer units unaided.

The experience was a very positive one for each of our students, and Rachael's teaching practice has even prompted her to consider a gap year



in Germany. All the students have declared their intention to live and work in Germany in the future. Indeed, the head of English at the school was so impressed with her English visitors that she has offered Kate a year's placement as part of her university degree course in German. The international engineering company KSM Castings has also expressed a willingness to offer future placements to students learning German at Ripon Grammar School, thus encouraging what we hope will be a permanent link.

I should like to thank our gap student Knut Freitag for enlisting the help of his family and friends to offer transport to our students and for his efforts to ensure their welfare during their stay in Germany.

Mrs N Lofthouse.



GREASE

To put on a show as well-known as Grease is fraught with difficulties. It's so well known that your audience have clear expectations of you before you start; it's really best known as a film – so, much of it (the cars, the school prom, the carousel of different locations and settings) doesn't actually transfer that easily to stage; and of course there is the formidable task of living up to the iconic performances of Travolta and Newton John.

Nevertheless, we couldn't keep resisting the impassioned pleading of our actors for year after year, so we finally gave in, and 'Grease' became the word.

The plot is actually incredibly simple, so the real focus at first lay in the dancing and the songs. Whilst Mr Lancaster and Miss Jackson coached and moulded Hollywood heroics from our soloists, every Thursday evening was given over to Dance Club, where our resident dancing divas (aka. Lucy Whitton and Mr Andrew) introduced the cast and chorus to the dark secrets of jive.

Our actors rose to the challenge too – especially the 'Greasers' themselves, led by the ice-cool Ross Graham (Danny), and the quick-tempered petrol-head Kenickie, played with customary flair by Drew Johnstone. Graham Currihan's performance as the naive young-heart Doodle was also particularly impressive.

The girls were up to match them though, and the soaring voices of Emily Reed and Ellie Muhairez, and the wise-cracking vulnerability of

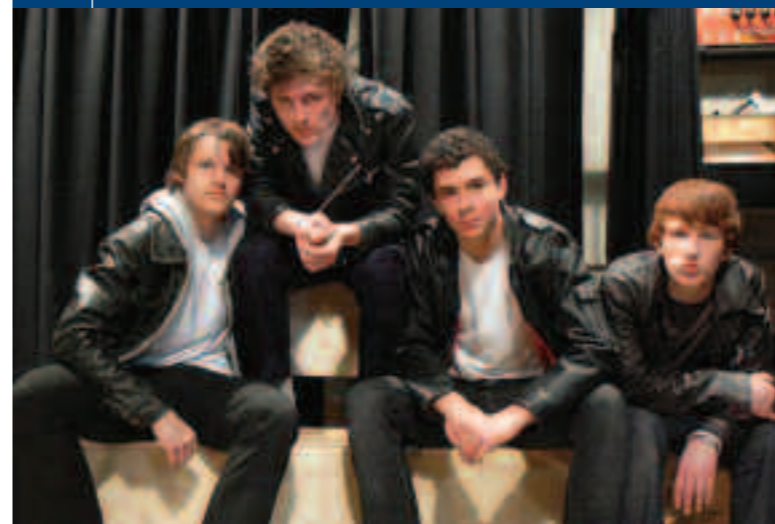


real conviction and flourish.

Alongside these major performances were equally impressive cameos by a range of experienced and newcoming actors – from the brilliant double acts of Kirsty Graham and George Owrarn as Miss Lynch and Coach Calhoun, and Charlotte Ashford and Alex Hume as Patty and Eugene, to the wonderfully sleazy Vince Fontaine, played by Jamie Lawrenson. (And of course, there was that prom-stealing dance performance by Lucy Whitton!) Meanwhile our huge company of dancers and gang-members were disciplined, well-drilled and colourful, and became the engine of the whole show.

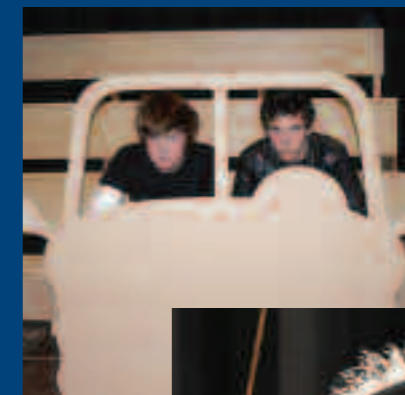
Of course no musical works without the music, and we were lucky to have a full and very patient band to support – and often lead - what happened on stage. Bolstered by Mr Williams, Miss Jackson and Mr Freitag, they brought the show to life with quiet brilliance.

The support for any major production like this needs to be immense, and we were very fortunate in having the assistance of Mr Herbert, Mr Stevens and Mr Davies in set design and construction; Mr Mann for 'Greased Lightning' itself; Mrs Whitham and Mrs Pickard for the props; Mrs Deighton for the costuming; Mrs Medway for stage management; Mrs Southwell for the Business Management, Euan Raffel and Simon Walmsley in charge of the technical desks, and a host of other parents and staff who gave much-needed help, advice and support.



Sophie McEvoy presented a terrific dramatic force. One of the performances of the show, however, came from Bridie Douglas as Betty Rizzo. Whether in the quiet intensity of her acting, or the spellbinding power of her voice, this was a performance of real measure and maturity.

Helen Wilson had the simple task of eclipsing Olivia Newton-John, which she tackled with relish! Her emotional roller-coaster as she vied for the affections of the frankly unreliable Danny Zucko was deeply engaging, and she and Ross portrayed that legendary chemistry with



The performances (including for the first time in recent years, a matinee performance for some of our local primary schools) were just brilliant, and the audiences clearly loved every moment. So did we!

Mr T Fell

Peter Pan! As we go to print, we are in the late rehearsal stages of our lower school production of Peter Pan! With the performance dates looming we hope for a very successful production, and hope too that if you came to watch it, you enjoyed the flight!



YOUNG WRITERS' POETRY COMPETITION

Our annual entry for this national competition this year saw a hundred and forty three of our poets (from all year groups) selected for publication in the regional anthology. These will now go forward for consideration in the national stage of the competition. Here are two of our successful entries:

The Next Time

The next time we will do it better
The next time we correct our mistakes
The next time we save lives
The next time we give them food
The next time we don't go to war
The next time we help the people
But when there is no next time
When there is no other chance
Will we value that first time?

Tom Feltham (5B)

Park

The bare trees stood still in the middle of the park.
Swings that are empty sway in the cold wind;
Flowers, caught in the frost.
A passer-by scurries along the white crisp pavement.
The mist hangs low in the sky.
The robin with its merry, crimson chest bobs up and down;
The dark clouds weep slowly.

Jemma Forster (1B)

Mr T Fell

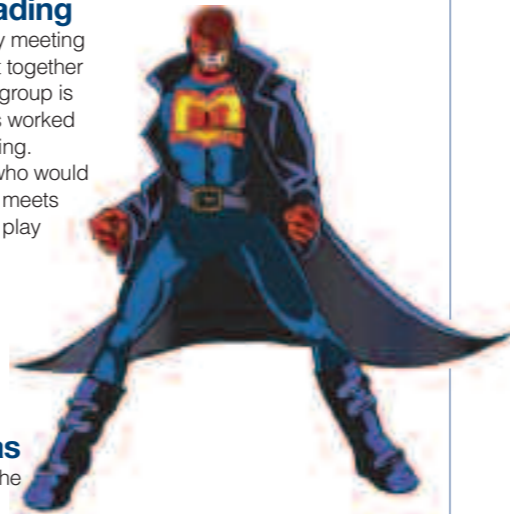
Visitors from Poland in the Library



The Library has been host to two graduate students from Poland, Ania Gorbai and Marzena Blach, who are studying to be teachers and school librarians (in Poland to work in a school library you need both qualifications). They both won a national scholarship to study at Aberystwyth University and as part of the award they won two weeks of work experience in the RGS Library! During their two weeks at RGS the Polish students have helped out in many ways, one of which was working with the ROCKETS Reading Group. They can be seen here showing the group how to make miniature books. We thank them for all their hard work in our library and wish them well in their careers in school libraries in Poland.

Book Group News

The Library's newest reading group: **Boys' Reading Champions** continues to grow and at our May meeting there were 11 boys, 3 dads and 1 grandad who met together to talk about the book 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. The group is the brainchild of 6th former George O'ram who has worked tirelessly this year to get this group of boys really going. Thank you George! Any boys in the Lower School who would like to join would be more than welcome. The group meets once every half term in the evening to watch DVD's, play games, and talk about books and reading.



The junior reading group **Rockets** has been shadowing the Carnegie Book Prize this term. The group has mixed views on this year's shortlist...no clear favourites have emerged so far.

The 6th form reading group, **The Novel Ideas Club**, started the term with a meeting to discuss the book 'Love in the Time of Cholera'.

The group has two more meetings planned this term: one to see the Harrogate Theatre's production of 'Return to the Forbidden Planet' and another one to discuss this term's book '1984'. We have a really large group of very committed readers this year....poor Prima's Pizzeria has never had to accommodate such a large group of teenage readers!

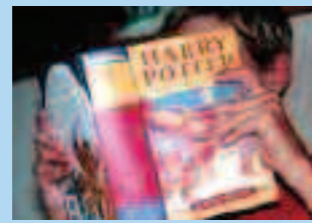
The staff reading group **'The Dead Teachers Society'** has been busy reading 'The Kiterunner' by Khaled Hosseini which is an amazing story set in Afghanistan during the time of the Taliban.



If parents are interested in ways in which they can encourage the reading habit at home, please contact Mrs. Tarter, the school librarian, for ideas and/or booklists.

THE RGS LIBRARY IS IN THE MIDST OF HARRY POTTER MANIA

First of all, there was a **Harry Potter Mastermind Quiz** at the beginning of the Summer Term which included 100 fiendishly difficult questions on all 6 previous books.



The TWO WINNERS were: Naomi Fowler and Morgan Brice! These two girls have an amazing knowledge of everything to do with the Harry Potter books. They are the kind of people you want on your team in a pub quiz!

To celebrate the release of the last book in the series, the Library will be holding another ALL-NIGHT READ-IN!

On Friday 20th July a group of intrepid readers will wait in the library for the newest book to be delivered at midnight by The White Rose bookstore of Thirsk. Then everyone will settle down for a good long read until dawn when Mrs. Medway will arrive with freshly baked goodies for breakfast, supplied by Davill's Bakery. Mrs. A Tarter, Mrs. Deighton, Mr. Fell and Miss Boulby will be on hand to make sure that our wizardry is kept under control ...

Mrs A Tarter

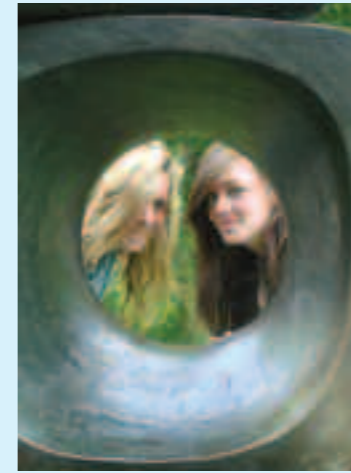
FOURTH YEAR ART STUDY VISIT TO THE YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK

Monday 11th June afforded a rare opportunity to see a major installation of the work of Andy Goldsworthy at the YSP, Bretton Hall, near Wakefield.

This artist's work, or installations/interventions, use natural forms and materials found in that location and constructed in a relationship to that location (site specific pieces).

On arrival we were met by a series of large scale installations: the Leaf Stalk room, Clay room, Wood room and Stone room. Each of these rooms/installations held their own magic of light, pattern and rhythm, from the huge gossamer curtain of leaf stalks to the cracked mud and human hair walls.

After lunch and a leisurely walk through the Sculpture Park, taking in many of Henry Moore's pieces, we arrived at the Longside Gallery. If the 'wow' factor of the morning's exhibits could be surpassed it would be here. We were confronted with a series of large-scale canvasses entitled "Mud and Hoof". These pictures were created by sheep feeding from a circular trough placed on a canvas laid on the ground.



When the canvasses were exhibited on the gallery walls the effect was akin to one of Jackson Pollock's action paintings, but using entirely natural materials and events to create the image. The simplicity and subtlety of the work we were confronting clearly demonstrated Goldsworthy's extraordinary sensitivity to the natural world.

The weather had been sunny and warm, the artworks in the galleries and the park were beautiful and absorbing and the staff and students travelled home exhilarated from what had been a truly inspirational day.

Mr G Davis

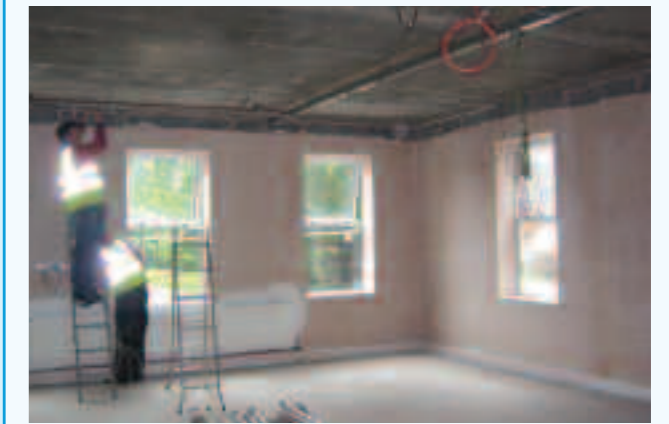


OUR NEW MATHS AND TECHNOLOGY BUILDING – AN UPDATE

On a rainy Monday afternoon, I donned my reflective jacket, hard hat and steel toe capped boots before setting off to the school building site for an update on the progress of the school's classroom extension.

The project manager, Stuart, was waiting to update me with the most recent events in the schedule. However the building standing in front of me pretty much spoke for itself.

The speed and efficiency of the workmen means that the superstructure (that's the brick work to you and me), the first fix of mechanics and electrics and the plastering are already completed.



All of the brand new aluminium windows have also been installed along with the services such as gas and water.

However, for the students, the all-important question is: what is there left to do? The answer is a surprisingly short one. The suspended ceilings are being installed as I write this and the joinery is almost finished. The air testing hasn't been completed yet, but in a few weeks time we will be guaranteed some environmentally friendly and energy efficient classrooms! Then, it is a simply a case of decorating the interior and laying the carpets. Some landscaping is needed to return the compound back to its usual state by removing the gravel and laying the turf on top. After that, the builder's job is almost done and they fulfil their contract by removing the two huts nearest to the new building, before packing up by the beginning of August, almost a month ahead of schedule. That will be the last of the building work we see at RGS for a while until the new sixth form centre project commences!

Emily Steed Upper Sixth

GREENPOWER ELECTRIC CAR COMPETITION

The 2007 Greenpower Electric car racing season started well for us on Sunday 29th April with a highly enjoyable day's racing at the Season Opener held at the Goodwood Motor Circuit, West Sussex and our two young teams performed absolutely brilliantly. Rachael Sharp and Chris Ogden did an excellent job of managing the Electric Chair (14th place) and Carbon Comet (8th place). The team's behaviour was as we would expect – impeccable!

Next, on Thursday 24th May, we attended the North East Sprint at Warden Law Karting Circuit, Sunderland. In the first race, which featured both our cars, the Carbon Comet driven by Chris Ogden took an early lead but was being hounded by Ben Wilkinson in the Electric Chair which was handling surprisingly well with its smaller diameter, cast alloy wheels and low centre of gravity. Both The Comet and the Electric Chair performed well in the twelve heats and eventually lined up on the grid against our arch rivals from Samuel King's School for the extended final race. Our team decided between themselves who would drive in the final based on their performance during the heats. Chris Ogden drove the Comet and Sam Waddington, the Chair. After six laps we finished third ('Comet') and fourth ('Chair') which won us a trophy and plenty of smiles on the podium.



Invitation

Following our award at the Goodwood Final for "the most innovative use of materials" we have been invited to give a 30 minute presentation at the "Lean Weight Vehicle Conference" at Warwick University on 26th/27th September this year. We will be the only Greenpower team at the conference.

Mr S Mann



RIPON YOUNG MUSICIANS OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

On the 28th April, Ripon Young Musicians of the Year 2007 took place at Holy Trinity Church. We entered the last class of the day for Years 10 to 13. It was split into two sections: strings and piano, and woodwind, brass and voice. The competition was judged by clarinettist, Leslie Schatzberger.

Paul Brian - ever so slightly adding to my nerves was the presence of a certain well-known Headmaster in the audience. I went up to the wonderful black grand piano as I was given the nod to begin my piece, 'Carouse!' by Sylvie Bodorova. Before I knew it, I had finished and took a bow. Mrs Schatzberger commented on each of the performances before announcing that I was the (close) winner of section one and she presented me with a medal and a cash prize.

Emily Reed - the second section of the class began, with 4 young musicians in the section and me being the last to compete. I sang "O Del Mio Dolce Ardor" by Gluck followed by "Sweet chance, that led my steps



abroad" by Michael Head. Amazingly, I was later announced as the winner of section 2.

After that announcement, an overall winner of the competition had to be decided upon and who was it going to be? Very deservedly, Emily was announced as the overall winner of the Ripon Young Musicians of the Year 2007. As winners, we were both invited to perform at Ripon Cathedral in a lunchtime recital the following Thursday, as well as to a workshop run by renowned conductor, Xen Kelsey.

We would really encourage any young musicians in school to participate in next year's event as it is an enjoyable and rewarding experience, especially if you do not get to perform in public often.

Paul Brian & Emily Reed Lower Sixth



ALEC PORTER - RUGBY STAR!

I first started to play rugby when I was 6 years old at Ripon Rugby Club. Joining Ripon Grammar in the first year meant that I would be playing rugby a lot more. I joined Harrogate RFC when I was 13 years old.

At Harrogate I was selected to play for North Yorkshire U14s and in the following season I was selected for the Yorkshire U15s, playing in a tournament at Rugby school in the National ten-a-side festival.

Last year at U16 level I was again selected to play for the Yorkshire team at fly-half. We played against the 6 other northern counties including Lancashire. These games were all a selection process to go to the North of England trial at Cattrick army camp but I wasn't selected for the final squad.

At the start of this season playing for school I had an injury fracturing my skull and had to have a major operation. The time off the pitch just made me even more determined to succeed. Exactly 8 weeks after my injury I had my Yorkshire under 17 trial and was selected to play against Lancashire and North Wales.



Frank Hadden, Professor Simon Lee, Alec Porter and (left) a fellow rugby student

At the same time I was selected to play for Scottish Exiles U18s a year young. This was a weekend in Bath playing against Welsh colleges. This was a great experience, being able to play with international players and being coached by the Scotland coaches. This then led to an invitation to provide a kicking demonstration in front of the Scotland head coach Frank Hadden at Leeds Met. University.

In the last few weeks of the season I was invited to the Leeds Tykes Academy and played four full matches including against the USA U18s. This achievement has been the highest I have reached playing rugby.

I have had the privilege to play alongside and against international U18 and U19 players, and the opportunity to meet and talk to the Leeds Tykes 1st team.

I have been fortunate enough to go to places all over the country, experience coaching of an international standard and meet the players who play at the top level.

Alec Porter Lower Sixth

BECKY OWRAM'S SPORTING SUCCESS!

I swim for Harrogate District Swimming Club and I am a member of the M P A G B (Modern Pentathlon Association Great Britain). At the age of 10 I started competitive swimming for Harrogate. I started in a squad called 'district development' and I am now in the National Youth squad. Swimming involves attending competitions on a regular basis at weekends, going on training camps to various countries including Spain and Hungary. The training camps last one week and in that week we roughly train 25 hours and cover a distance of 65,000 metres.

One of my highlights was swimming at the national championships, August 2005 with the Harrogate relay team where we qualified for the finals and achieved 6th overall. My other highlight was going to Berlin to swim in an international competition.



In National Youth Squad you are expected to train nine times a week. We train early in the morning before school. We have to be on poolside at 5.15am and finish training at 7.30am. Then in the evening we are back on poolside at 4.30pm ready to train until 7.30pm. On average we do 45,000 metres in a usual training week.

The demands of swimming are very great and I wanted to try other sports. This is how I discovered the modern pentathlon. Modern pentathlon has five sports in it: fencing, shooting, swimming, running and horse riding. Pentathlon also requires a large amount of training and there are competitions throughout the year. In November 2006 I competed in the British triathlon championships in Wolverhampton. Then I also competed in the British tetrathlon championships at Bath University where I came 10th overall and the British biathlon championships where my team finished in 1st place. Modern pentathlon is a great sport and I hope to progress to a very high level whilst continuing with my swimming.

Becky Owrarn 3C

RICHARD DELF - CYCLING CHAMPION!

Richard Delf has won the Junior award for the Cyclists Touring Club's District Association Touring Competition (DATC), and actually set a new record in the competition for the number of points gained by a junior (under 18 years old) competitor.

The DATC is designed to reward all round cycling ability in leisure cycling and points can be gained for riding long distances and off road rides as well as hill climbs and freewheeling contests. Richard rode several distance events, the shortest of which was 30 miles long, followed by a 100 kilometre ride. Richard rides with Ripon Loiterers and completed their 100 mile ride, which goes from Ripon to York and then returns to Ripon via Thirsk and Bedale. He then completed the 'Ron Kitching 150 km ride' which starts and finishes at York, and traverses the North Yorkshire moors with a check point at Danby in Eskdale.

The longest ride was 200 kilometres, ridden by both of us, which started near the highest point in Leicestershire. This was completed in 10 hours 20 minutes.

To collect his prize, Richard recently attended the 'Cyclists Touring Club' annual dinner, which was held in Guildford. The picture shows Richard receiving his trophy from TV newsreader Jon Snow, who is president of the CTC (he uses his bike to get to news events in London).

Mr C Delf



CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD SUCCESS

If you'd asked me what I'd be doing the day we broke up for Easter, taking a train to Stoke-on-Trent would not have been the first thing that popped into my head. However, that is exactly what I found myself doing. I was on my way to Keele University to participate in the final round of selection for the UK team to enter this year's International Chemistry Olympiad, which will have taken place as you read this, on the 15th-24th of July at Moscow State University.

The selection process began in March, when Dr Grime asked some of the Upper Sixth if they would like to get involved in the Chemistry Olympiad. A few weeks later, Dr Grime informed me that he received a phone call from the Royal Society of Chemistry to say that I had achieved a Gold award (along with Steffi Sharp) and that I was invited as one of 12 students to the second selection round at Keele.

The weekend itself involved a three hour written paper on the Saturday morning and an even longer and equally tricky practical exercise in the Keele chemistry labs.

Unfortunately, I was not selected to go to Moscow, but the experience still remains an extremely valuable one and who knows, someone from RGS may go one stage further next year...

Chris Smith Upper Sixth

Rocket Science

Starchaser Industries are a British company who design and make rockets. They are aiming to make space tourism a real possibility in the near future. Some members of their team came to school in May to work with our 3rd Year pupils and pupils from local junior schools. Year 5 pupils came from Holy Trinity Junior School, Moorside Junior School, St Wilfred's Primary School, Greystone Primary School and Cathedral Primary School.

These two days were part of our engineering specialism work. The pupils looked at some scientific and engineering aspects of rocket design and many made rockets which were launched towards the end of each day.

Dr R Grime



CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT WINS AWARDS



The chemistry department at Ripon Grammar School has just won two awards from the Good Schools Guide. They won the award for the best A Level chemistry results for boys as well as the award for girls in a state selective school. The prizes are judged on a number of factors including the number of students studying chemistry, and both the raw A level results and the results taking into account prior attainment.

Chemistry, and the other sciences, have a strong tradition at the school. Over 60% of the Sixth Form study chemistry, more than any other subject in the school. Last summer, over 70% of students studying chemistry achieved an A at A level. A good proportion also passed Advanced Extension Award (AEA) Chemistry, the qualification above A level.

There has been much recent publicity about the decline in popularity of science, including chemistry, in schools and universities in the UK. Nationally, the number of students taking A level chemistry has dropped alarmingly as students choose subjects perceived as being easier.

I must mention the pupils who achieved these results last year. The year of 2006 had a superb work ethic and was a pleasure to teach. They richly deserved their success. However, the success of the department would not be possible without the dedication of my highly skilled colleagues, namely Miss Boulton, Miss Humphrey, Mr Pearman, Dr Saunders and Mrs Wilson. I would like to thank these highly committed and professional colleagues who always strive to achieve the best for their pupils as well as being a pleasure to work with.

Dr R Grime

WINNING WAYS

Ripon Grammar has been the fortunate recipient of a recent winning streak made by Mrs Blackburn, the Systems Manager, at the school.

"OSY Ltd" a local supplier to the school ran a web competition in conjunction with "u name it". As a result, Mrs Blackburn won a 32" high definition ready LCD TV.

It was decided to utilise this equipment with the upgraded language satellite receiver and DVD equipment in the library study room. The facility is now available for group or individual use across the curriculum and has proved a great success.

The second win was achieved at the Research Machines Seminar attended by Mrs Blackburn. "Brother", the electronics company, raffled their latest "QL-550" computer connectable labeller and once again we struck it rich.

Mrs Lancaster, the data manager at school, snapped up the machine to help with the examination correspondence and now immediately labels any item which remains stationary in the office for more than 5 minutes!

However despite numerous attempts to continue the lucky run into the Lottery, Mrs Blackburn has not had any further success!

The IT Department



OLD RIPONIANS NEWS

Barbara Holland: A new cup has been bought from individual donations to commemorate the life of Barbara Holland, who contributed so much to the school as a pupil, teacher, deputy head and through Old Rips. It will be presented for the first time this summer to a Lower School pupil for all round achievement. Thanks to all who gave money for the cup.

Congratulations to the following Old Riponians

Andrew Williams has recently been elected Mayor of Ripon for 2007-2008 after many years' service as a Ripon councillor.

Samantha Curry won the British Open Doubles Croquet Championship together with David Hopkins, beating the top seeds in the process.

Gemma Taylor took part in the finals of the World's Strongest Woman, but unfortunately had to withdraw after being injured doing deadlifts of 180kg!

David Hillery (1945-52) was the oldest recipient of a PhD in May at Newcastle University.

Hattie Leach won an international scholarship to Australia to work in Melbourne, courtesy of law firm Irwin Mitchell.

Weddings:

Tracey Raisbeck to Simon Turney

Dominic Couldwell to Kathryn Richardson

Angela Merrin to Lee Clarke

Other News

Suzie Richwald spent 6 months in a primary school in Italy, gaining experience in Italian education and the local way of life.

We regret to announce the death of Mr Harold Kempster, one of the oldest and most loyal Old Riponians. An obituary will follow in a later edition of RGS News.

Don't try this at home, children

Mr Arthur Heslop wrote to the school about his father A.S. Heslop who was a boarder at RGS more than 100 years ago. In May 1904, aged 14, he purchased some dangerous chemicals in Ripon. Whilst waiting to go on a boarders' outing to Brimham Rocks, he was showing his purchases to his friends and an explosion took place, resulting in a serious injury to his hand. He was sent to his room and only later in the day was he taken to hospital where his hand had to be amputated. Mr Arthur Heslop writes that his father was able to carry out all the activities of a two handed person better than most!

Date for your diary

15th December 2007 is Old Riponians Day. The AGM at 12.30 (for any Old Rips) will be followed by hockey and rugby matches, and tea including a presentation to Dr Barry Saunders, who retires this summer. Catering will be by Caroline Bentham.

Finally, as one of the newest Old Rips, I would like to thank you for many good wishes on my retirement. Please support the Old Riponians Association. If you have any interesting news, please contact the school or one of the Old Rips Committee.

Mrs A Saul

Welcome from the Parents' Association

Forthcoming Events and News

The Masked Ball - Feedback

The rain had stopped, it was cold and the building gave Big Band a little shelter from the wind. As in previous years we enjoyed the music as we walked up the drive to the marquee. It was a little cold to linger sipping Pimms but linger we did, listening to Big Band's special brand of music. The masks were varied, some were serious and others fun and humorous. The ladies received gifts of jewellery courtesy of Fossil UK Ltd. Three hundred and twenty guests enjoyed good food, and danced the night away to 'Disciples of Soul'.

Organising an event like this takes lots of planning and time. We would like to thank everyone involved for their contribution in making this event a success. **The evening raised just over £4000.00.**



'200 Club'

You are invited to join the '200 Club'. For less than 30 pence a week you can be a club member, as a member you will be given a number and the numbers are drawn each month, 1st place wins £65.00, 2nd place £25.00. As well as having an opportunity to win some money you will be supporting the school. For more information on how to join please contact Mrs Alex Whitfield, '200 Club' administrator c/o The School Office. Don't delay act today!!!!

Winners for June are

1st prize £65.00 to Major & Mrs E Hannaway
2nd prize £25.00 to Mr & Mrs J Tearle

Dates for your diary

Saturday 22nd September
Cake stall in the market square.

Friday 5th October
'Call My Bluff' Wine & Cheese tasting in the school hall. More details nearer the time.

Quiz Night

This was enjoyed by the few who took part. Thank you for your support at this event.

Cake & Tombola Stall

Place The Market Square
Date Saturday 22nd September 2007
Time 8.00am - 12 noon

We need cakes, plants, jams & lots of items for a tombola. If you are able to provide any of the items, please deliver them to the school office on either Thursday 20th or Friday 21st September 2007. If you are able to help on the stall please contact Frankie Porter 07801 953098, or Hannah Walpole 07796 171108 Tell all your friends to come to the stall !!!!!

Last year this was a very successful fundraiser our aim is to raise more this year!!

Committee members:- President-Headmaster Mr Pearman, Chair- Frankie Porter, Vice Chair-Nigel Hunt, Secretary-Helen Suckling, Treasurer- Steven Morris, 200+ Club- Alex Whitfield, Press Officer-Melanie Lyall, Update-Hannah Walpole, Coffee Rota, Val Mingay
Members:- Katie Jones, Sandra Delf, Fiona Pearman, Marita Murray, Jackie Reynard, Aileen O'Kane, Debbie Lamb, Yvonne Webster, Ruth Foster, Sandra Bates, Simon Partridge, Jonathan Tearle, Paula Park, Debbie Parker, Jane Osbourne and Philippa Hunt.