

## Prevent it happening to you! Young drivers event.

Young drivers are the most at risk, especially those aged from 19-25 years old.

The Fire and Rescue Service is holding a multi-agency presentation on the evening of September 23rd, from 7pm, at:

Harrogate Fire Station  
Skipton Road  
Harrogate  
North Yorkshire  
HG1 4LE

We would like to invite you to attend this interactive presentation on how you can help us reduce or prevent road traffic collisions.

Parents and guardians are especially welcome to this very informative event. However, it is not suitable for young children.

For any further information please call 01423 504082.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### September

3	Staff training day
4	School opens
11	Sixth form tea, 4.00pm
17	Big Bands concert with Alan Barnes, 7.00pm
16,18 -19	Junior school production "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe"
18	First year parents' tea, 4.15pm
23	Opening ceremony for sixth form centre, 7.00pm

### October

1	Sports Hall opening ceremony, 7.00pm
1 - 4	Sixth-form art trip to Cornwall
13	Autumn concert, 7.00pm
19 - 23	Charity week
21 - Nov 1	French exchange pupils in France
23	School closes for half term

### November

2	School opens
4	Upper-sixth parents' evening, 4.30 - 7.00pm
6	Speech Day, 2.00pm; guest speaker Mr D Curry MP
10	Fifth-year parents' evening, 4.30 - 7.00pm
12 - 15	Sixth-form art trip to Paris
12	House Drama
13	House Drama
16 - 20	Lower-sixth assessments and fourth-year examinations
17	First-year 1950s event
23 - 24	R+B Factor, 7.00pm
25 - Dec 4	Fifth-year mocks

### December

10	Fifth-form poetry day
17	Carol Service, Ripon Cathedral, 7.30pm
18	School closes, 12.30pm

## Free Internet Training Sessions



Rural Arts are able to offer FREE, friendly INTERNET training sessions for parents and grandparents of children in your school.

If you have access to broadband, we can provide a tutor to guide you through using the internet. We can use school computers or we will bring our mobile laptops - you just need to provide the access to internet broadband and a group of 10 or more people.

Times can be arranged to suit your group - maybe after they have dropped children at school in the morning or before they collect them in the afternoon (sessions of 2 hours would be preferable).

Suitable for anyone over 18 who has never used the internet or who would like to know more and gain more confidence when using the web.

Learn the skills needed to use the internet safely, gain access to public services online, email, buy online and book tickets, etc - get your own free email address to keep in touch with family and friends and learn how to send photographs.

Tel: 01845 526536  
Email: [Janice@ruralarts.org](mailto:Janice@ruralarts.org)  
Web: [www.ruralarts.org](http://www.ruralarts.org)

## FROM THE EDITOR...

Thanks must go to all teachers, parents and pupils who have contributed to this edition, in particular Giles Pitts, my "man of all trades" and Alex Gerrity, both Editor's Assistants' and Ben Nabarro who has been a very reliable photographer!

As ever, if any pupil or staff member should be interested in writing an article for the next edition of RGS News, or suggesting content, please contact me on [stevensf@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:stevensf@ripongrammar.co.uk). We are also looking for people to suggest or take photos for the front cover of each edition - perhaps something seasonal! Get in touch if you are interested!

I hope you like the new front cover layout and enjoy reading this edition.

*Mrs F Stevens*

For further information please contact us:

## RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Clotherholme Road,  
Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG  
t: 01765 602647  
f: 01765 606388  
e: [stevensf@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:stevensf@ripongrammar.co.uk)  
w: [www.ripongrammar.co.uk](http://www.ripongrammar.co.uk)



## GREAT TIMES AT BEWERLEY PARK

An outdoor education

## BASKING IN FAME

Showing talent

## EXCHANGING VIEWS

An insider's tale



# WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER

## Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 'new look' RGS News. I hope you approve of the slight change of style but still enjoy reading about the range of activities which take place in the school.

As I am writing this piece the school is closed following the outbreak of swine flu. The consequences of this are being dealt with and I am looking forward to seeing the students back in school. An empty school is not a school I enjoy! There was clearly some reorganisation required for the final weeks of term but I feel the term finished well and I am grateful to the staff and the parents for their understanding and resilience at a difficult time.

Ofsted paid the school a visit in June and we were a pilot school for the new section eight framework which is being rolled out from September 2009. I am awaiting the final report but there was a big change in emphasis in the reporting system especially regarding 'equal opportunities and tackling discrimination' as well as 'community cohesion'. The school has fared very well however and key indicators such as attainment and progress, pastoral care, partnership work, engagement with parents and carers and curriculum have all been graded as outstanding. There is no doubt that the 'bar has been raised' with the new inspection framework and there will be challenging times ahead for many schools which are due to be inspected in the coming year. The final Ofsted report will contain a few recommendations of a minor nature which we can address over the coming years. It may be another five years before we get a visit again and I am certain the school will have moved on considerably from where it is currently. I would like to thank parents for taking the time to fill in the Ofsted questionnaires at very short notice and the very supportive comments that were received by the inspection team.

During the term both building projects have continued and the sixth-form centre and sports hall are on schedule to be completed for September. The music block will be the next major project and I am hopeful that this will be ready for September 2010. Planning permission is being sought currently.

Examination results will be due in August for all fifth- and sixth-form students and I hope the results will reflect the hard work of both staff and students over the last year. For upper-sixth students and fifth-form students there will be staff available to support those students who need it on the day of the results.

The Junior Production has been moved to early in the autumn term (16, 18-19 September) to ensure that the students involved are able to do themselves justice. This decision has been taken because of the time lost due to school closure and I hope that many of you will be able to come.

The website has proved invaluable over the term to keep you informed and I hope that many of you are using it routinely.

I would like to thank all the parents for their support and encouragement. I am looking forward very much to next year and the opportunity to develop the next phase of the improvement plan for the school, and I welcome any input that you as a parent may have to contribute to the plan.

With many best wishes for a happy and relaxing holiday.

*M L Pearman (Headmaster)*

## SCHOOL OFFICERS 2009 - 2010



Congratulations to the following sixth form pupils for their appointments as school officers and we wish them well in their responsibilities:

Head Boy	Giles Pitts
Deputy Head Boys	Paul van der Westhuizen David Mosley
Head Girl	Amy Barrett
Deputy Head Girls	Amelia Tearle Alex Gerrity Natasha Mortimer



# GOODBYE!

## Mr G Berry

Mr Berry agreed to join the history department at short notice and is now returning to his well-earned retirement. He has been much appreciated by all his students, as both history teacher and upper sixth form tutor. The level of support given to those applying to UCAS as well as to his public examination classes has been phenomenal and certainly above the call of duty. His encyclopaedic knowledge of history, and much else besides, was already well-known to his history students and became legendary after his magnificent performance in the Charity Week quiz night. He has made a major contribution in supporting the work of the history department and will be missed. We thank him for what he has done and wish him well with the numerous projects in which he is involved outside school.

## Mrs E Sparey

## Miss H Shaw

Miss Shaw joined the physics department in September 2008 as an NQT from York University. She is an excellent classroom practitioner, with lessons planned meticulously to ensure that all students achieve to their potential. Her enthusiasm and passion for teaching are obvious for all to see. She has taught physics at all levels and astronomy to GCSE and has helped to embed the observatory into the curriculum. Staff and students will miss her enormously, but we wish her well in her move to Scarborough.

## Mr R Griggs

## Miss L Watson

Miss Watson, a former pupil of Ripon Grammar, and an Oxford University graduate in Theology, joined the school in September 2008 as a full-time RE teacher. In the short time she has been with us, she has made a major contribution to the religious education department, PSHCE and general studies. Her enthusiasm for, and specialist knowledge of, the subject has been of inestimable worth and value to the department and the pupils she has taught. Her lessons have been very organized, interesting and relevant to the modern world. Miss Watson has also supported the extra-curricular life of the school, successfully organizing the Chess Club, and accompanying visits to the Manchester Buddhist Centre and the second year religious studies visit to London.

Miss Watson is popular with staff and pupils for the professional, good humoured, friendly and caring way she goes about her work – she is also well known for her legendary laugh! We wish her well as she moves to Ashville College in Harrogate in the next stage of her career and would like to thank her for everything she has done in the past year at Ripon Grammar School.

## Mr J Clarke

## Mr G Wilson

Mr Wilson started teaching at Ripon Grammar School just before Christmas 2008 to replace Mrs Schofield whilst she had her baby. Mr Wilson, although new to teaching, brought with him a wealth of industrial experience which he has passed on to his classes. He taught all ages in the school from second years making photo frames through to the sixth form where he has been involved in the design and manufacture of MP3 amplifiers and an adjustable snare drum. Although here for only a short time he has certainly made an impact upon the classes he taught. He has been appointed to a position at Rossett School in Harrogate, teaching design and technology, where he is again covering maternity leave. We wish him all the best for the future.

## Mr D Rudland

## Mr A Casey

Mr Casey joined RGS in September 1996, having taught for two years at Ashville College. He started his teaching career here in the Boys' P.E. Department and he also undertook some junior work in the Geography department. In addition, he started to work as a boarding housemaster in School House.

An old boy of Ashville College and a former county schoolboy rugby forward, Mr Casey pursued his education at Leeds Metropolitan University where he did a BSc sports degree and he completed his post graduate-teacher training at Brunel Institute in West London.

Acceptance in marriage to his lovely wife Sarah saw the Caseys move to Staveley and later to North Stanley – a convenient starting point for his daily five mile cycle ride to work each day!

A Masters degree at Loughborough University was followed by a PhD at

Leeds Metropolitan. Web site investigations began that allowed the students to produce game design lessons of their own making and a series of cooperative teaching and learning experiences sprang up for the pupils. New methodology saw a Sport Education programme involve the students actively in all aspects of their lessons and team building was the new thing!

It came as no surprise when he announced that he was entering the world of teacher education as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Bedfordshire.

Ripon Grammar School is sad to lose a man such as Mr Casey who has left an indelible mark upon the community and who demanded that the students think for themselves. Mr Casey will enjoy his final RGS Sports Day, away at last from discuss duty near the shed and free to mix and mingle after thirteen years enmeshed in the concrete circle and net. He will take our warmest regards with him and we all wish him, Sarah, Madeleine and Thomas a happy family life in beautiful Bedfordshire.

## M.J. Garvey

## Mrs M Blackburn

Since joining RGS in 1983, Mrs Blackburn has been a valuable member of staff in a variety of roles. Firstly as a physics / AV technician until 1995 when she moved to the ICT department as a technician. She then progressed to teaching ICT for a while before becoming Systems Manager. During her career she developed other interests and gained many qualifications which enabled her to coach students in a variety of sporting activities, for example hockey, windsurfing and lifesaving, (for which she for which received a certificate of thanks from the RLSS at the Guildhall in London). Mrs Blackburn devoted most of her spare time to these extra-curricular activities. She was also a valuable member of the staff team at Beverley Park for thirteen years. She was also a much appreciated staff governor for several years and has contributed a great deal to the life of the school. We wish her well in all the projects she has lined up for her retirement. You may come across her under a lamp post (with banjo!) or on the riverbank casting a fly with Mr Miller!

## Mrs H Pickard

## Mr J-Y Garcin

Jean-Yves Garcin, our French assistant for the year, worked mainly with sixth formers who enjoyed his enthusiasm and varied lessons. He also made a valuable contribution to the French exchange trip to Pont l'Abbé d'Arnoult. He has now returned to Nice where he is hoping to develop an ambitious educational web site project. In the longer term he hopes to go on to be an English teacher.

## Mr S Smith

## Mr S Pollman

Having completed a year as our "German Language Assistant", it is now time for Stephan to return to Germany. He has enjoyed a varied role in school, including football coaching, helping in the ICT department, assisting with extra-curricular activities in the boys' boarding house, and of course, holding conversation classes for the sixth-form pupils studying German. Stephan chose to spend a year in England in lieu of his German national service, and we are very grateful for the contribution he has been able to make to our school. He will now take up a place at university to study "International Business", confident that his English is strong enough to enable him to pursue his chosen career. We wish him every success in the future!

## Mrs N Lofthouse

# Welcome!



## Mr B Hampshire

We welcome to the school Mr Hampshire, who took over the role of Systems Manager at the beginning of June from Mrs Blackburn.

Mr Hampshire joins us from Thirsk School and the surrounding primaries, where he was the Systems Manager.

**We welcome back Mrs S Newcombe to the technology department after her maternity leave!**

# MORE AWARDS FOR CHEMISTRY



The chemistry department has won two more national awards from the Good Schools Guide. The two awards are for Best A-Level Results for Girls at an English School and Best GCSE Results for Boys at an English Grammar School. This follows other recent awards in 2007 for Best GCSE Results for Boys in an English School and two awards in 2006 for Best A-Level Results in an English Grammar School for Boys and Girls.

The awards are based on performance by students over the previous three years, taking into account the prior attainment of the students and the numbers taking the subject.

Dr Grime, Head of Science & Chemistry, said,

"These latest awards are the result of the hard work of the staff and students. I would like to thank all my colleagues who have been involved in this success over the last few years for their dedication and commitment coupled with their highly effective teaching. It has been a pleasure to see so many committed students enjoying the subject and



making such good progress. To have won another award ahead of every other school in England, whether selective, comprehensive, state or independent, is a great achievement."

Chemistry has built up an excellent reputation over several years with over two thirds of the sixth-form taking AS/A-level chemistry. Many have gone on to study chemistry or related subjects at university, bucking national trends.

Two new science laboratories will be opening in the new sixth-form centre in September to accommodate the growing numbers of students taking sciences at AS/A-level, along with the AS/A-level applied science course taught by our partner school, Ripon College.

All three science departments are now showing the benefits of specialist status in engineering, with improving results at all levels and increased participation at AS/A level. Science is continuing to develop and build upon this latest success.



# EXCHANGING VIEWS

As those of you who have been on the French exchange will know, and especially after my own vow in the fourth year never to do a French exchange having seen some of my friends' experiences, the step on to the coach that would take me away from the comfort and security of England to a strange foreign family for two weeks was a tentative one. Tense plane journey followed nervous coach journey but the months of anxious anticipation came to an abrupt end when we were whisked off by our surrogate families before we could say Mon Dieu.

Having got through our first night, our next challenge was French High School! The French school's misplaced idea, however, on the second day that presenting us with a French road safety test in French would be a really stimulating and enthralling insight into French youth culture! On the other hand, the French idea of Wednesday afternoons off is little short of inspired. Our trip to Ile d'Aix, a tiny, picturesque island with no cars was like stepping into the past, and a lovely day was rounded off with my team's victory in the Ile d'Aix treasure hunt, with a real treasure prize! Our final outing was to Brouage, a former sea fort, now surrounded by miles of uninterrupted farmland; we had a pleasant day with another treasure hunt – we were getting rather good at them by this point – although by the end of the day we were certainly ready to return (Brouage has fewer shops than Ripon).

The second week, when the French students were on holiday, was undoubtedly the hardest but I had a really fun time with a trip to Futuroscope, the seaside and a traditional French market all under the baking Easter sun. Others enjoyed a flight on a Microlight and paintballing. Another highlight for me was going on a scooter for the first time (I was unceremoniously presented with the helmet and expected to hop on) and the daily fresh vegetables and eggs from the garden.

To those considering doing a French exchange: Mr Smith is not making it up when he says your French improves dramatically as a result; your self confidence is bolstered; and you gain an invaluable insight into French culture.

Amelia Tearle, lower sixth



# ENTERING THE DRAGON'S LAIR!

Five teams of second-year pupils competed on Wednesday 29 April for the chance to represent RGS at the Harrogate & District Dragon's Lair Final, June 2009.

The in-house final was the culmination of three months work by second-year pupils who had all been given the 'brief' of thinking of new and exciting ways to re-use the redundant coffee bean sacks provided by Taylors of Harrogate. Over thirty groups submitted their ideas to the competition organisers, NYBEP and seven teams were selected for the next round.

Working in their own time with access to ICT and business management support from school staff the seven teams became five leading up to the school final.

The five teams offered an imaginative range of hessian based products such as sun-loungers, i-pod sleeves, tea cosies, purses and noticeboards. Each product had a charitable or environmental selling point.

Despite experiencing some nerves the students presented their 'pitch' to four not so fierce dragons. The judges and the audience were wowed by the amazing business acumen of the teams. No detail was left out with information provided on costs, distribution plans and marketing ideas.

The dragons deliberated long and hard before declaring that Element led by Sam Neal, with Adam Makepeace, Jack Ramsden and Yiannis Matheos and Tee Mee led by Freya Rose, with Claudia Seager and Sarah Owens were to go through to the Harrogate Final.

At the Harrogate & District final of this competition, on Friday 5 June 2009, 'Element' and 'Tee Mee' tried to persuade the Dragons that their novel use of old coffee sacks was the one to support.

Competition was fierce and despite giving very professional presentations and displaying their products the two teams were unsuccessful in their pitch to the Dragons.



Mrs B Southwell

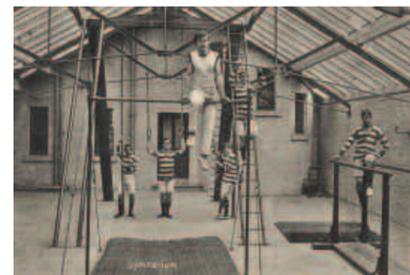
# BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

For the past year our school's historic site has been cluttered by two conspicuous construction areas. At long last the end is in sight. When RGS students return in September, the school's facilities will be dramatically improved by the addition of a long-awaited sports hall and the sixth form will have the benefits of a brand new sixth form centre.

Housing resources such as a performing-arts room, a learning centre, two science laboratories and a much anticipated café, the sixth-form centre on the old orchard site will be a fantastic new joint venture between Ripon College and our school. An opening ceremony, scheduled for a 7.00pm start on Wednesday 23rd September, will mark the official beginning of a new era for Ripon Grammar School's sixth-form, and will be attended by local M.P. and Old Riponian, David Curry.

Meanwhile the Sports Hall, a long overdue addition to school's sporting facilities, also appears to be nearing completion and will be ready for action by September. As well as providing room for teaching the new A-level P.E. course, the sports hall allows keen sportsmen to play, amongst others, indoor football, netball and cricket, come rain or shine!

The sports hall is a community venue and there have been initial



A very early 'Sports Hall' circa 1910 (now the boiler room).

enquiries about the use of our new building from local sports clubs including Ripon Nomads badminton club, Ripon City Panthers Junior football club and cricket clubs including Studley CC.

Again, a grand opening ceremony is in the diary for 1

October, and we are hoping to welcome ex-England international rugby player and current Head Coach at Leeds Tykes, Neil Back. Neil was part of the 2003 World Cup winning side and would be a worthy guest for such an exciting moment in Ripon Grammar School's sporting history.

The next project is a new music block and, if planning permission is granted for this £600,000 development in July, construction workers could be on site as early as this autumn for an estimated September 2010 opening.

As a hectic time in the development of the school comes to a close, we should say a big thank you to all those who have contributed to raising money or been involved in organising the campaigns, without whom these fantastic projects would never have come to fruition.



RGS outdoor pool early twentieth century

Giles Pitts,  
Editor's Assistant

# MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

## A FESTIVAL OF SUCCESS



The Big Band played at the National Concert Band Festival in Bradford on 25 January and were given a Silver Award for their first attempt in the competition. Subsequently all of the ensembles, choirs and soloists turned their attention to performing to the best of their ability in various classes at the Harrogate Competitive Festival (Harrogate Ladies' College – various dates from 28 Feb – 15 March) and the regional heat of the National Festival of Music for Youth (St. Aidan's C of E High School, 7 March).

### Congratulations to the following pupils on their outstanding performances:

Jess Bryden	1A	(see separate article)
Sarah Owens	2D	1st Brass solo, fourth year and under
Melody Swiers	2C	2nd Brass solo, first year and under
Sally Pitts	2D	2nd Saxophone solo, second year
Jonathan Pitts	2C	2nd Folk song, fourth year and under
Grace Lancaster	L6	2nd Saxophone solo, upper sixth and under
Cameron McCormack	3C	3rd Saxophone solo, fourth year and under
Lucy Micklefield	3C	3rd Irish harp class
<b>And to the following school ensembles:</b>		
School orchestra	1st Youth / School orchestra, upper sixth and under	
Lower School Big Band	1st Jazz/swing band, fourth year and under	
Big Band	1st Jazz/swing band, upper sixth and under	
Musicality	2nd Choir, third year and under	
Blue 5	3rd Jazz/swing band, upper sixth and under	
Wakeman Youth Brass	4th Brass/concert band	

## SCHOOL MUSIC AWARDS

The annual Music Awards evening was held on 3 March. This evening gave the opportunity for all musicians to compete against other members of their year group in the friendly atmosphere of our in-house 'Young Musician of the Year' style competition. The following received awards:

1st Year Winner	Jessica Bryden
Runner up	Melody Swiers
2nd Year Winner	Henry Worrall
Runner up	Jonathan Pitts + Magnus Hall
3rd Year Winner	Cameron McCormack
Runner up	Alex Worrall
4th Year Winner	Alasdair Simpson
Runner up	Chris Ogden
5th Year Winner	Kirsty Hall
Runner up	Rory Buckle
6th Form Winner	Grace Lancaster
Overall Young Musician	Andrew Cox

Congratulations to all our winners and to the participants who all performed magnificently!

## MARK NIGHTINGALE



Mark Nightingale is a jazz trombonist and composer who has played with many great musicians including Cleo Laine, John Dankworth, Sting and Robbie Williams. Mark came into school on 26 February to run workshops for both of the school's Big Bands. Mark who is a fantastic player, made a massive impact on all of the musicians in the bands. In the evening there was a concert at the Spa Hotel featuring Mark and the school's Big Bands. This concert was a must for all jazz lovers and musicians!

Miss L Jackson

# THE HARROGATE COMPETITIVE FESTIVAL – MY EXPERIENCE



Drama winners

The Harrogate Competitive Festival for Music, Speech and Drama is a three-weekend festival held in Harrogate (usually at Harrogate Ladies College, as it was this year). It is an extremely popular festival which this year has been enjoyed by a number of Ripon Grammar students. Every student performed well and made the school proud.

I entered myself in a number of drama and musical classes. In the 'Prepared Reading' class I came second. I read an extract from the well-known Alex Rider books by Anthony Horowitz. I was also entered into the 'Verse Speaking' class where I came first. However, I think the best class for me was the 'Duo Acting Scene' where I performed a drama piece from the play 'Creepers and Crawlers' with one of my best friends. It was a really fun class to act in with a very high standard. Despite this, we managed to come in second place.

The following weekend was the group and solo singing musical sections. I performed with the Baby Big Band and we came in first place. I thoroughly enjoyed that experience, as it was my first time singing and playing the piano in a proper music competition with the band. I was also entered, with Alice Scorer, Olivia Hinchcliffe and Adam Makepeace, into the 'Unaccompanied Folk Song' class. Lots of well-known songs were performed here again with a very high standard in this class I came second. My final class in the competition was 'Song from a Musical'. Again, Olivia Hinchcliffe and Adam Makepeace also performed in this class. This was an extremely popular section with children from schools all over the area. There were some entertaining songs in this class and I'm sure everyone enjoyed listening. I sang 'At The End Of The Day' from the musical 'Les Misérables'. Olivia sang 'If I Loved You' from 'Carousel' and Adam sang 'Close Every Door' from 'Joseph'. In this class none of us were placed but we all received high marks and enjoyed the event.

Overall, the Harrogate Festival this year was extremely popular and Mr Lancaster and Miss Jackson did a very good job for the school in getting students interested in competing. I definitely enjoyed the Festival and am looking forward to it all happening again next year!

Jonathan Pitts, second year

# BASKING IN 'FAME'!



The spring term culminated in an explosion of music and dancing as the senior musical played for three nights in March. The choice of the production 'Fame' was a masterstroke, allowing a variety of lead roles with equal parts in terms of singing and acting, and

hence harnessing the considerable talent available to the directors. There were strong vocal performances from Amy Barrett as the shy yet strong-willed Serena and Charlotte Woffenden as Mabel, whose love of food leaves her in a dilemma culminating in her soulful rendition of 'Mabel's Prayer', which threatened to steal the show. Likewise Grace Lancaster was superbly cast as the vivacious, talented, yet naïve Carmen, whose emotion-charged solo 'In L.A.' brought a tear to the eye of numerous audience members as it soared to the ceiling of Ripon Grammar School's hall.

Our old stage has seen many a wonderful school production but few could match this for energy, enthusiasm and sheer joy, and for this credit must go to directors Mr. Fell and Mr. Andrew for their tireless hard work, and the dedication and commitment shown by the musical team of Mr. Lancaster and Miss Jackson.

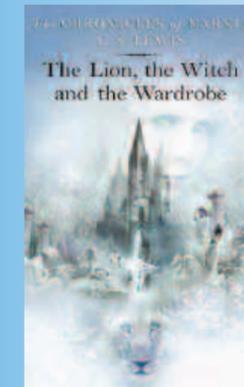
Credit, also, to Alfie Neal, Razi Abbas and Graham Currgan, who showed that boys can give it a go too! Alfie excelled both vocally and with his violin, Razi delighted the crowd with his heartfelt rap and spellbinding dancing, and Graham brought a sense of comic timing in his inimitable style. He must be applauded for extracting every last laugh from his outrageous song in his final senior production appearance. Those who witnessed this spectacle will know exactly what I mean!

From the chorus to the lead roles, the success of this production was down to the enthusiasm of the cast who were understandably exhausted after months of gruelling preparation. Sweltering lunchtime dance practices will no doubt last long in the memory! It was, however, a pleasure to be a part of this talented team. On closing night as the final note of the title song erupted from the musicians' instruments and the performers stood on stage, arms raised and triumphant, nobody was under any illusions as to what an upbeat and sparkling production this had been.

Giles Pitts, Editor's Assistant



# 'THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE'



It has been an interesting preparation for this year's Junior Production, with the OFSTED inspection and then the closure of the school for a week forcing us to reschedule the show for early in September. There are times when a large wardrobe looks a very comforting place indeed!

Nevertheless, we are set for our new run of shows on Wednesday 16th, Friday 18th and Saturday 19th September – starting at 7pm on each evening, and we do hope that you will be able to join us as we follow the four Pevensie children into the beautiful and dangerous realm of Narnia.

This C.S Lewis fantasy is one of those timeless stories that lights up the imagination of generations of children, and its central battle between the icy evil of the White Witch (played by Lizzie Tearle) and the ancient noble magic of Aslan (Hannah Hale) makes it vivid and exciting play to work with.

Once again we are lucky to have a hugely talented and enthusiastic cast, including established names as well as newcomers, and it has been a lot of fun to work with such a committed team.

Tickets can be booked through Mrs Southwell, or bought in the entrance hall in the week before the production.

Mr T Fell

# CANOEING CLUB



Canoeing club is a great experience and an opportunity to learn about the important aspects of canoeing. As one of a group of ten I have had so much fun and have learnt about teamwork, stability, rolling and some games like water polo in canoes! Also, I have made friends to work with

along the way and the whole course is a brilliant way to improve and become a more confident swimmer.

So far, I have extremely enjoyed canoeing club and I am so glad that I was able to get involved and achieve some more advanced and challenging goals. I'd like to thank to everyone for all their input and to the others taking part and making it such a wonderful experience. I'm sure we all enjoyed it!

Sarah Owens, second year

The funding for this exciting opportunity was sourced from the Big Lottery via a bid through the School Sports Partnership. The emphasis was on introducing new and exciting activities into the school PE curriculum in the hope that some students might consider canoeing as an activity they would like to pursue out of school. This will enhance club links with our local canoe club at Sleningford.

Further bids though Sports Unlimited and the Eclipse Club have already been submitted so that similar courses can hopefully run next year too.

Mrs H Mackenzie



# GREECE TRIP 2009



Lion Gate, Mycenae

In October last year, students in the fourth year and sixth form studying classical civilisation were invited to participate in a trip to Greece to learn more about the ancient world. Students quickly signed up and before long all of the places were taken. About five months later we were ready and on one sunny evening in March we set off for Greece.

The trip was organised with Ashville College and would mainly consist of seven days travelling between ancient sites situated throughout southern Greece. After two days in Athens we would visit several historic sites such as Delphi and Olympia. However, things can easily go wrong and unfortunately, they did. Our aeroplane from Manchester airport to Athens was delayed for 24 hours, leaving us stranded in Manchester for a whole day. Although this was disappointing, our stay in Manchester brought the group closer together and prepared us for the rest of the week. Eventually, one whole day later than planned we arrived in Athens. By now everybody was exhausted and the rest of the trip seemed daunting and very tiring.

We spent a whole day in Athens and after dinner a large proportion of the group made the journey to Lykavittos Hill for a spectacular view of Athens. By now several students were exhausted after two nights with practically no sleep.

The next few days were spent travelling through Greece, never staying in one place for more than a night. We eventually arrived at the small fishing village of Tolo where we stayed in a hotel by the beach. We spent two nights here and on the second we all enjoyed trying some Greek delicacies in a local restaurant. Unfortunately this was where our week ended. We all enjoyed our time in Greece and we all made new friends.

James Tate, fourth year



The Acropolis

# GREAT TIMES AT BEWERLEY PARK



At the end of March, the third year set off on a week's expedition to the outdoor-education centre, Bewerley Park, near Pateley Bridge. We were randomly put into mixed groups with a Bewerley Park member of staff and a RGS teacher in each group. This gave us the opportunity to make new friends.

Throughout the week we took part in a range of activities, both water-based and land-based, including kayaking or canoeing from Newby Hall to Boroughbridge, rock climbing at Brimham Rocks, gorge walking and abseiling. At the centre we went on the high ropes and low ropes course and the jungle gym!

The range of activities allowed individuals, with the support of their teams, to conquer their fears. One of the most challenging activities for people with a fear of heights, was the Leap of Faith, which involved climbing a 30ft pole, climbing onto a tiny, wobbly platform and leaping onto a trapeze! Everyone found a different aspect of the week challenging, but with the support and encouragement of our team mates we all completed the activities successfully. We learnt more about ourselves and made some amazing new friends.



Our fun didn't stop there though! During the evenings, we went on a night walk and took part in orienteering, but the most memorable event was the newspaper fashion show. In our teams, we had one hour to design and make outfits for a girl and a boy out of newspaper! The couples then had to 'strut their stuff' down the catwalk in front of the judges. From 'macho man' to 'chavs' and pirates, there were some amazing, and some appalling, costumes!

Bewerley Park was a fantastic experience – one which we would never have had the privilege to enjoy without Miss Gilfillan's excellent organisation. The week we spent there is, without a doubt, one which we will never forget.

Brittany Marles and Georgina Sanderson, third year

All photos with kind permission from Benjamin Nabarro, third year.

# R.E. TRIP TO LONDON



The second years had an early start on Friday 22nd May. After the long five hour bus drive we arrived at our first stop. It was a beautiful Hindu temple where we had a bullock cart ride and a delicious meal consisting of; cheese curry, rice, crackers and ginger biscuits. The scenery was peaceful and calming and the temple itself was a well maintained Tudor building. Girls dressed up in robes and had patterns painted on their faces. The boys wore scarves and played instruments. It was a fantastic start to the trip.

We were then whisked off to the biggest mosque in England. We were given tour of the building and we were able to watch an actual service take place!

Our next stop was at the hostel where we were staying. We ate a meal and then we went on a luxurious walk in Hyde Park. Once returning from Hyde Park we had a competitive quiz.

The next morning brought an early start. We walked to the Natural History Museum and explored for a while. After a lot of walking we ate our packed lunches in the sun outside.

We then walked to the Victoria and Albert Museum where we were asked to fill in a tricky questionnaire on Buddhism and looked at all of the beautiful sculptures in there.

Madame Tussaud's was one of my favourite parts. Everybody got lots of photos of celebrities.



The Lion King was a spectacular performance. The costumes were dazzling and the singing was fantastic. Everybody enjoyed the Lion King.

Once again we had an early start on Sunday morning. We rode straight into the centre of London to a magnificent building. It

was a Hindu temple with beautiful sculpturing. The whole building was made out of marble and the outside was just as mind blowing as the inside. We were taught all about Hinduism and watched a video on the life of Hinduism.

The football match at Wembley Stadium was definitely Mr. Clarke's favourite bit. If you were watching the match you may have seen a crazy man wearing a bright yellow t-shirt waving in the background – that was Mr. Clarke! The team we were sitting with won so we got all the action of happy football fans!

The trip itself was amazing. I would recommend it to anybody who didn't go. Thanks to all of the teachers who took us, especially Mr. Clarke. I hope we have more trips like this in the future!

Zara Cotton, second year

## JESSICA'S WINNING WAYS



Jessica Bryden in 1A has been learning the cello since she was four, and is currently studying for her grade eight examination. Jessica, who is an accomplished musician, also plays the piano and is a chorister at Ripon Cathedral.

Jessica has received many prizes for music at school and has taken first place in numerous music competitions on both cello and piano. Jessica was the "Young Musician of the Year" in both 2008 and 2009. At this year's Harrogate Festival Jessica was placed in all classes, receiving honours or distinction, and won the 'Open Strings' class.

Looking to the future Jessica has been awarded sponsorship to attend the European Youth Summer School in Hertfordshire and has been offered a place at 'Pro Corda', the National School for Young Chamber Music Players.

## DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR HELPS OUT IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Professor Peter Hastie from Auburn University in the United States joined the PE department to work with two classes of boys in the fourth and fifth years. The boys in 4B and 5B engaged in a game-making project. They used a web-based wiki and the library, with the help of Mrs Tarter, to design their own invasion games (games in the same field as football, hockey, basketball and rugby) to play across a sporting season. Professor Hastie and I helped the pupils to think about their designs and then, during three visits to the school,

Professor Hastie helped me to develop the games. Six games were created but two (one in each class) won through to be the sport for the 'season.' "Piko Piko" (a game similar to handball but played with cut down milk jugs) and "Run the Gauntlet" (a hybrid passing/dodge-ball game), have been on "Teachers TV" and will appear in a book on games-making by Professor Hastie which will be published in the summer.

Mr A Casey

# ACTIVE GIRLS AND A DOUBLE OLYMPIC CHAMPION



On a cold, wet, windy January morning I took Katherine May and Lucy Swiers to Beverley Park for an 'Active Girls' workshop run by Aireville School. Two girls from every school in North Yorkshire were invited to the conference. The idea was that after the day's activities they would be suitably inspired that they would set up their own Active Girls committee on their return to school which in turn would give girls a forum to express their views and opinions about the running of girls' PE in school.

and skirts. The introduction of new activities such as lacrosse, rock-it-ball and cheerleading have also been well received providing excitement, creativity and innovation in an extremely girl-friendly curriculum.

The girls decided that there should be an Active Girls noticeboard in school highlighting new activities on offer in the community as well as links to new and existing clubs. They will also set up an Active Girls' Committee to give girls a voice in school and will run their ideas past the Senior Leadership Team. Events such as Sports Awards evenings, trips abroad and fundraising for team strips were also discussed.



The highlight of the day was meeting Schools Champion and double Olympic gold medal winner Dame Kelly Holmes who promotes the Active Girls workshop across the country. Kelly answered questions, signed photos and helped the girls with their action plans as well as taking part in the morning's activities.

Mrs H Mackenzie

After an active and muddy morning performing team building activities... the afternoon was spent preparing with an action plan to develop further and improve physical education provision at Ripon Grammar School. The girls were extremely positive and highlighted many of the improvements that had come about since September. Miss Gilfillan and Miss Raymer have already introduced a new PE kit with hoodies, windjammers and tracksuit bottoms on offer at a competitive price and more changes are afoot in terms of polo shirts, skorts, shorts

## RUNNING AWAY WITH SUCCESS

It has been a successful year with the running club's achievements showing progress and much promise for next year. It all started with the introduction of regular training sessions, required for the staff and seniors running in the Great North Run, and culminated with a first entry at the Northern Schools' Championships.



We had a fantastic and enjoyable season, the training and competitions would not have been possible without the support of colleagues who have attended training and races, in particular Dr Caldwell, the parents who braved the weather to support, but most of all the Club Captain Stuart Wallace. Stuart drove the idea of regular training and has been at almost every single one of the 40 training sessions. Next season will see us enter the English Schools' for the first time, along with a return to the Northern Schools' and there will also be the opportunity for pupils to represent the district and county through the trials championships. I hope numbers at training continue to be high and wish Sophie Boyce and David James all the best as the Club Captains for next season.

Mr I Walker

### Club Awards

Club Captain: Stuart Wallace  
 Club Captains (elect): Sophie Boyce and David James  
 Colours: Stuart Wallace  
 Club Championship: Winner – Eleanor Warren  
 Second – Stuart Wallace  
 Third – Sophie Veitch  
 Fourth – George Foster  
 Fifth – Harriet Stringer

### Representative Honours

North Yorkshire – Duncan Birtwistle.

Harrogate and Craven District – Sampie Dutka, Sophie Veitch, Harriet Stringer, Lucie Foster, Eleanor Warren, Annabel Swiers, George Foster, Harry Yates, Charlie Yates, Josh Stockdale, Duncan Birtwistle, Stuart Wallace.

### Team Prizes

#### Harrogate and Craven District Championships

1st – Senior Girls – Annabel Swiers, Sarah Pemberton, Kathleen Kiker.  
 2nd – Senior Boys – Duncan Birtwistle, Tim Robinson, Stuart Wallace, Matthew Backhouse.  
 2nd – Inter Girls – Kelly Ayton, Lucie Foster, Eleanor Warren, Sophie Boyce.  
 3rd – Year 9 Girls – Harriet Stringer, Sophie Glover, Imogen Pearson, Hannah Hickingbotham.  
 3rd – Year 7 Boys – George Foster, Harry Yates, Charlie Yates and Josh Stockdale.

## THE CORRECT ETIQUETTE

The dictionary definition for etiquette is 'conventional requirements as to social behaviour; properties of conduct as established in any class or community or for any occasion'. This definitely does not begin to describe what was involved in the Johnson House etiquette session which was held by Belinda Alexander. Belinda had a natural elegance about her, much of which the rest of us lacked! She started off with an hour-long demonstration of applying make-up the 'proper' way. As time progressed, I started to realise, along with the majority of girls, that we had been doing it wrong all this time, there was a whole new dimension to the world of make-up! Just some of the tips I learnt were to apply foundation upwards to avoid saggy, wrinkly skin, and certain eye shadows were simply not for my eye colour, to name but a few. When Belinda's makeover on her chosen volunteer was complete, the results were remarkable.



The next step was to walk like a lady, which is far more challenging than it sounds. However, by the end of the session we walked in immaculate lines and a near-to-perfect posture with a clearly improved balance. We had transformed from a rowdy bunch of girls to an elegant group of ladies within two hours, all thanks to Belinda!

Brogan Dale, lower sixth



## 1ST XI BOWLED OVER WITH NEW CRICKET KIT



Members of RAF Leeming's cricket team met up with their counterparts from Ripon Grammar School for a match marking the presentation of the new kit to the school by the RAF.

The new strip, bearing both RAF and Ripon Grammar School's logos, was presented to the school's senior team as part of a continuing relationship between the two organisations. Squadron Leader Jim Tait, Senior Careers Liaison Officer (North East), organised the grant. He said: "The Royal Air Force is proud to be associated with Ripon Grammar School and is delighted to donate a cricket kit for the school's senior team. We wish them well in this current sporting season and hope that the fixture against the team from RAF Leeming will allow the boys to display their cricketing skills.

"With many young students choosing a more sedate lifestyle, and time behind a computer, we are pleased to support any initiative that promotes youth sport and activity. I am aware of the strong emphasis placed on extra-curricular activity at Ripon Grammar School, and I believe that this active and varied lifestyle is critical to success in any professional occupation and especially in the Royal Air Force."

The new strip was officially christened with a match against the RAF Leeming team. The RAF Leeming team, captained by Rob Barker, won the day, but everyone had a very enjoyable afternoon. Rob said: "It's very important to maintain these links. We often get caught up in our own working world, and it's nice to come out to Ripon Grammar School."

Mr Garvey, Head of Boys' PE, said: "There are a good number of students at our school who consider a career in the RAF and in the other armed services. It is good for them to meet members of the RAF in the school environment. For the students, the new kit gives them a strong sense of team identity and it is pleasing to see both the school and RAF logos on the same shirt. The Headmaster and all of the students are delighted with this initiative".

Mr A Cook, RAF Media Office

## RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEW P E KIT



We are pleased to announce that from September 2009 Ripon Grammar School will have a new P.E. kit. The kit consists of a 'performance wear' white polo shirt, 'performance wear' navy blue shorts or skirt and a 'performance wear' navy blue hoodie. (The polo shirt and hoodie display the school crest).

These items of uniform can be ordered from 'School Trends' website [www.schooltrends.co.uk](http://www.schooltrends.co.uk) or alternatively via a link on the RGS website. We anticipate that the link will be available to parents from the 25th July 2009.

Other 'un-badged' items of kit may be purchased from our recommended uniform suppliers.

For a full list of items, please consult our website.



## IT'S JUST A HOP, A SKIP AND A JUMP TO NAMIBIA



Last year a group, of about thirty students, two teachers and two expedition leaders raised some money and flew to Peru in South America for three weeks. Next year on the 18th of July another group of students will be flying to Namibia

in Africa to climb sand dunes, cook on an open fire, trek through the deserts, play football with young children and paint on their school walls, safari all day, sand board and live in a foreign country for three weeks, when they can't even speak the right language.

In Namibia there is so much to do and see, all the wildlife and local communities, markets and desert scenery. This land is home to over two million people, thousands of animals, many languages and some of the tallest sand dunes in the world. For the short time we are there we will be doing one of the many treks through the harsh deserts, before working in local school's all around Namibia, and then taking time to rest and relax, mix with the local people and do just some of the many activities available.

From day one when we arrive at the airport ready to leave we are on our own, just a group of students and an expedition leader to keep us out of trouble. We will have to get ourselves on the right plane, to the right places, on time, get our own food, find out where to stay, what to do and where to be as well as being in charge of the expenses and the rest of our group. So for everyone going it will probably be a once-in-a-lifetime chance and a whole new experience, one we will never forget.



But this is not just about what we do in Namibia it's also about how we get there and what we achieve. At the moment everyone is trying to raise about three and a half thousand pounds to go on the life-changing expedition, we have been doing everything we can think of, since January this year, in order to raise all the money we need to go on this trip ourselves, and we have a long journey ahead

of us. We have planned many events for the next ten months such as Christmas parties, cake stalls and sponsored walks, as well as things like car washing, waitressing and so much more.

It will push us to our limits, and it already is, but even though every bit will be hard work, it will be worth every second and more...

Abigail Ward, fourth year

## DEREK'S SLAM DUNK!

I started basketball when I first saw a basketball match a few years ago. After that I wanted to play basketball, but I didn't know where, but soon a basketball club started at school. Through this I progressed to the senior practices. Throughout my three years of playing basketball I have learned, improved and progressed a lot. I then started to go to basketball camps where I played basketball all day! After that I went for my first trial with the North Yorkshire squad, but sadly I didn't make it. After a year of improving my game I tried again and this time all the hard work paid off! I have played against all the other Yorkshire counties in inter-county matches and at the end all the Yorkshire players were selected. To my surprise I managed to get in, but what I didn't know was there was a gruelling six weeks of top-level basketball to come! I never would have got this far without my coach and my family.



Derek van der Westhuizen, second year

# SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

## THE FIRST TWO YEARS – MY PERSPECTIVE



Ripon Grammar School's student council is now approaching the end of its second academic year. When I was asked to write about my experiences as the senior team representative on the

school council I felt both privileged and delighted. In some ways I actually feel a bit of a fraud commenting on a student representative body especially as I did not know the school before the council existed. However as only Alex Gerrity has been on the council as long as I have, I am able to discuss my perception of the work of the council.

As the senior team representative I have viewed my role in a number of ways. Chiefly I try to support the students by providing ideas and modelling different ways of getting things done, including running meetings. As the council has evolved then so has my role – as the students have become more confident I have tried to devise a framework for progress. For example, last year the initial challenge was to become an operational group, including articulating a vision ("A Voice for Change") and producing an operational constitution. This has been reviewed and we have subsequently tried different mechanisms for gauging opinion and moving progress forward.

Also in the first year our initial projects were to look at the environment, design a protocol for the use of portable technology, and start work on a new summer dress for the girls. My own experience began by providing support to Mrs Hardman although much of the thinking and impetus behind a student council preceded my time at the school. I still have vivid memories of the first meeting where it took nearly one hour to talk through a modus operandi - a process that suited the school. This year we have consolidated this and as well as completing projects from last year, we have started work on a revised code of conduct, a quiet study area for students at lunch time as well as trying to develop a communication network.

The opinion of the council is now valued. Several members of the group have attended senior leadership meetings to report on progress and I hope they have gained valuable experience as a result.

My abiding memories of the past two years definitely start with the individuals. Working with young people is a privilege of my job and the energy and ideas of the young people at Ripon Grammar School is second to none. It is interesting to observe the students at this school attempt to solve problems and my highlights include:

- the many hours talking about the environment
- a meeting of the council where the boys were discussing the girls' new summer dress, in some cases giving opinions before the girls (!)
- the meeting where, once Mrs Hardman and I left the room, a group of previously silent students erupted into lively conversation – it became probably one of the most productive meetings of the council
- the numerous times where members of the student council have wanted tougher consequences for students
- watching Mark Bryan have "just one more" biscuit!

The most challenging part for me is not talking! As someone who attends meetings on a regular basis I understand that it is important that I do not talk too much, particularly when trying to

organise something – but understanding and doing are not always the same thing!

There have been "ups" and "downs" and there are obviously things I would do differently but it is your council. Everyone who has been a year group representative has hopefully learned something and they have given up their time for you. It is not an easy job and it is still down to the student body to help the council find its voice. A key part of the learning curve for the members of the groups is the realisation that talk is cheap. The ideas are there, both within the meetings and beyond it, but a group is only as strong as the sum of its parts. Progress is slow without the support of the students of the school and I believe that there is still some work for the council in explaining its role



and encouraging others to be involved. The council is merely a representative body of the students and if they are not happy with what they are doing the choice is theirs – get involved, pass on feedback and if they really want to make a difference then elections for the next year take place next term. This particularly stands if parents are fed up with listening to their children complain!

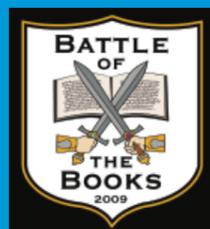
We are now on our third Head Boy and Head Girl and we will begin our third elections next term. A key part of the council's work is to integrate itself within the student body – I do genuinely believe that generally students are happy and do not want to change much, but the council exists to tell me otherwise, so it is down to the students. It is fair to say that in some cases progress is slow but I can only comment on the many individuals alongside whom I have worked and say that they all have the best interests of the students at heart and I am confident that the council will continue to evolve under Mrs Wright's stewardship.

Mr K Auger



# NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

## BATTLE OF THE BOOKS



Four of our keen readers set out to battle wits with the other schools in the Harrogate district in the area's first ever book quiz which was held at Harrogate Grammar School in May. The quiz, devised by librarians from North Yorkshire, was created to provide students who were too old to take part in the international Kids Lit Quiz to have another similar quiz experience. The competition was extremely fierce and we didn't get a place in the top three but we had a really good time nevertheless, and the competitors each came home having won a book and even Mrs. Tarter managed to win a £5 book token. Thanks go to Sian Avery, Madeleine Pearcey, Hugh McHale-Maughan and Dominic Quinn for representing the school so ably!

The master of ceremonies was the performance poet Philip Wells (aka The Fire Poet) who will be coming to RGS to lead a writers' workshop in the autumn...but more about that in a later edition of RGS News!

## SPRING PHOTO COMPETITION



Thanks go to **Madeleine Pearcey** for organizing a Spring Photo Competition in the Library. Maddy came up with three categories: best animal photo, best plant photo and best overall image of spring.

There were some absolutely amazing photos entered and we were really fortunate to have the judging undertaken by a famous international photographer, Edward Parker (uncle of Theo and Kit)

whose stunning photographs appear in several of the books in the library. Some of the finalists are pictured here together with the organizer Maddy. Well done to all who participated and to Maddy for all her hard work in setting it up! The first place in the animal category went to **Laura-Jayne Josling**, first place in the plant category when to **Phoebe Edwards** and the best image of spring was by Tim Robinson. Special mention must be made of photographer **Aidan Clancy** who entered photographs in each category and took second place in all three, and the very amusing photo of his cat entered by **Mr. Lewicki** (our only staff entry!).

Seen here are Laura-Jayne's amazing photograph of the pollination dance of the bee and Mr. Lewicki's cat enjoying certain pleasures of spring in a very unique way!



## ROCKETS READING GROUP

This term has been taken up shadowing the Carnegie Prize judges...and never before has the group read their way through so many of the books so quickly! Full marks must go in particular to **Juliet Fenlon, Grace Jagger and Heather Laws** who in a few short weeks have read nearly all of the six short-listed titles.



The group voted for 'Ostrich Boys' as its number one book.

The final winner was announced on 25th June and was Bog Child by Siobhan Dowd.

## READING CHAMPIONS

Our book-loving blokes have been busy travelling through the worlds of science fiction this term and landed long enough to meet up for a crazy session of aliens, robots, and monsters...the latter actually being the creators of (and ultimately eaters of) some rather unusual forms of life (see the photo!) The group managed to turn some of Mrs. Tarter's recycling into robots, and her sweet stash into terrifying creatures. Fortunately, the world was saved from invasion by the quick thinking and hungry appetites of our mad scientists who managed to single-handedly consume the aliens!



Later in the term the boys joined forces with the reading group and went to see the film version of Neil Gaiman's book 'Coraline'...this strange fantasy starts off like a quirky children's picture book but soon delves into a parallel universe in which the 'other mother' seems to be every child's dream parent...and it takes Coraline and the viewer some time

to realize exactly how wrong that idea is. The film is quite scary enough in places without the 3D effects available in some cinemas. But if you fancy that extra dimension of creepiness, try to see this film in 3D.

## A BLAST FROM THE PAST



The first years have spent this term researching the lives of teenagers during the 1950's. They have used books and the internet to gain a better understanding of the time period before conducting their own interviews of people who were children or teenagers during that time. They then shared the information that they had collected with others in the year group by creating collaborative wiki pages.

The next step was to focus their research more specifically on what life was like for young people who lived in Ripon in the 1950's. To that end we invited in a group of Riponians to be interviewed in school by a group of our first years. Dorothy Taylor, Paul Freeman and John Taylor joined RGS Staff members Mrs Blackburn and Miss Charlton in sharing their memories of the area during the 1950's. They were expertly interviewed by **Melody Swiers, Meg Jones, Olivia Howatson-Kerr, Tom Stringer, Ciaran Steele and Andrew McCann**. Some very unusual facts about RGS and other local schools were revealed!

If you want to find out more about what they said, and to see the work produced by our first years during this project, then you are invited to a **celebration of the 1950's to be held in Ripon Cathedral on Tuesday, 17th November**. Everyone is invited to come along and see the work of the First years, and hear the interviews they recorded. There will also be a fashion show of clothes from the 1950's, there will be music from the era, and even some food for you to try. So save the date in your diary and dig out something that you have at home from the 1950's that you could bring along to show on the night. There will a prize for the most unusual 1950's artefact! (and no, your granny doesn't count as an artefact!) If you want any further information contact Mrs. Tarter in the Library.

## THE NOVEL IDEAS GROUP (sixth form reading group)

This year's group has read Robert Harris' **Fatherland**, followed by Terry Pratchett's **Good Omens** and finally this summer, **Red Blood, Snow White** by Marcus Sedgwick. This last book tells the story of Arthur Ransome (author of Swallows and



Amazons) when he was a journalist and supposed spy during the Russian Revolution. A great read for anyone who has enjoyed reading Ransome's books or who is interested in a very turbulent period of world history. It is highly recommended and quite easy to read.



Mrs A-M Tarter

# Parents' Association

## A BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



As the school year draws to its close, I would like to reflect on the events and monies raised by the Parents' Association. So far this year we have donated over £10,000 to the school. This has been spent on various activities and

equipment, from reward trips to Alton Towers, to wine for the Art exhibition and to paying for the lease of the new school minibus. One of our recent events was the Summer Ball, which raised £1800 and has been a wonderful achievement, as selling tickets was affected by the success of one of the Ripon Junior Rugby Teams reaching the national final at Twickenham and the current economic climate. It was a most enjoyable evening - guests were entertained on arrival by The Big Band and later by Mr Lancaster and his band. I would personally like to thank the members of the ball committee who gave countless hours of their own time during the course of the year to organising it. This group comprises of Sandra Bates, Craig Scorer, Yvonne Webster, Aileen O'Kane, Val Mingay, Paula Park, Collette Coppack, and Jan Porter.

The Parents' Association is run by parents, who all have day jobs and simply wish to help the school to improve the facilities available to our children. We are always looking to welcome new



parents joining us or if you can't do that then join in the activities. My contact details are available from the school office.

We are planning various future events, of which we will of course keep you informed. Sadly we say goodbye to Nigel and Philippa Hunt who are moving to New Zealand. They have both been tremendous assets to the Parents' Association and helped raise thousands of pounds over the years. On behalf of all of us, I wish them happiness and good health for the future.

May I also thank all the members of the Parents' Association for the time and support which they give. I look forward to another enjoyable year.

*Mr J Tearle  
Chairman of Ripon Grammar School Parents' Association*



## RGSPA Golf Day ~ 5th June



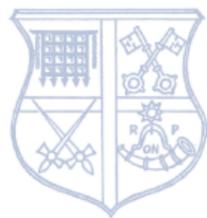
Hosted by Ripon City Golf Club, we held a Golf Day on Friday 5 June.

Following bacon rolls and coffee, the teams played this challenging and stunning course prior to enjoying a full buffet lunch. Prizes were awarded for the following;

- # Nearest the Pin ~ John Shaw
- # Longest Drive ~ Andrew Foster
- # Highest Team Score ~ Fozzy's Four Ball
- # Highest Individual Score ~ Andrew Foster

Particular thanks to Micky Doig, Tim Davis and James Stelling at Ripon City Golf Club for their support, most of the players stayed dry on the day.

The winning Four Ball: Andrew, Jo, Robbie and Mark



President: Paul Freeman  
Treasurer: Tony Ellender  
Joint Secretaries: Alison Frankland and Louise Watson

# OLD RIPONIANS' ASSOCIATION

## AN OPEN INVITATION FROM THE OLD RIPS



**Are you a student of the school, a former student of the school, parents of past or present students, past or present staff or a friend of Ripon Grammar School?**

You are?

In which case the committee of the Old Riponians' Association would like to invite you all to come to an Open Day on December 19th 2009. You will be shown around the many new buildings the school has acquired since our last Old Rips Open Day in 2005, which celebrated the 450th Anniversary of the refounding of the school. There is now a mathematics and engineering Block, a Sixth-Form Centre, and, of course, the superb Sports Hall, the latter built with one million pounds raised by the efforts of so many of you.



In addition there is an Astronomical Observatory, funded by the Old Riponians' Association through

an 'Awards for All' grant of £10,000. So long as the clouds are cooperative, once it is dark you will, in small groups, be able to view the stars over Ripon using the computerised telescope.

Would you also like to see a hockey match between the school XI and an Old Rips team and a netball match, all played in the new Sports Hall? There will also be a Rugby match played between a team from Ripon Rugby Club and a team of Old Rips. Of course this will have to be played outside, to create just the right atmosphere. After the matches there will be refreshments served in the School Hall, accompanied by the School Choir singing carols.

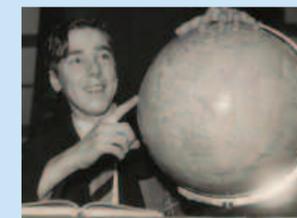
This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet friends old and new, of all ages and we hope that as many of you as possible will find time to spare from your Christmas shopping to join the Old Rips on December 19th.

(If you are a member of the ORA there will be the Association's Annual General Meeting in the School Library starting at 12.30p.m. All members are welcome and our business will certainly be over in time for the first match in the Sports Hall at 1.30 p.m.)

*Mrs J Bellamy*

## HARD TIMES PAST! - BOARDING MEMORIES 1957-1961

Once upon a time, in the days before iPods or Sky television, before personal computers or pocket calculators, when popular music came on 7" vinyl disc rather than compact disc, and when Ripon Grammar School was still just a boys' school, boarding was.....rigorous.



A day in the life of a boarder began at 7.25 am. The duty prefect would wake everyone up by clanging a hand bell. We had five minutes to put some kit on and get outside, where the cars are now parked, for fifteen minutes of exercise, primeval aerobics! Then back to a washroom, one for each dorm,

scrub up, change into school clothes and leg it down to the bottom corridor when the next bell sounded for breakfast at 8.00am.

Some boys, one from each form, would have a week on duty in the dining room helping to serve food. The rest sat on benches down each side of long tables, two first formers at the bottom and then in seniority up to two fifth formers either side of the sixth former at the head of the table.

The Headmaster, RABA Atkinson, his wife, the three Housemasters: Messrs Locke, Wallace and Petchey, together with Matron Gladys Postlethwaite, would sit on their own table. Every meal began with a Latin grace: "Benedictus benedictat" being the favourite because it was the shortest.

After breakfast it was time to make one's bed and get down to the hall, now the Library, for assembly, with about 220 day boys and 70 of us, I once managed to clear assembly prematurely by fiddling with the vent valve on a cast-iron radiator. Punishment for misdemeanours was 'gating' which meant being locked in for days or weeks.

On Friday lunchtime the fruit parcels would be delivered, sent up from Eden's greengrocers which used to be on Westgate. These parcels were supposed to contain fruit but we all knew that you could negotiate with the manager, Mr Plaice, and get a couple of Mars Bars. All such stuff would be locked in one's Tuck Box: too often a flimsy thing made of anaemic looking plywood if your parents had bought the official model. However, I had an RAF armourer's toolbox made of half inch thick, seriously unsustainable mahogany whilst some of my mates had even stronger iron bound boxes that had once belonged to the National Coal Board!

After school on Fridays we were allowed down town but had to be back for high tea, served as always at 5.30 pm. Prep was five nights a week, done where the staff room is now, from 6.30 to 7.30 for the junior dorm (first and second), till 8.15 for the middle dorm (3rd and 4th forms), and till 9.00 for the senior dorm (fifth and lower sixth). Lights out in each dorm was ninety minutes later.



After breakfast on Sunday all had to write a letter home, whether we wanted to or not, and, at about 10.30, 'the crocodile' would set off to the Cathedral for Matins. Sunday afternoon was free; time to meet the girlfriend perhaps, from Ripon Girls' High School of course. Boarders, most of whom could tell tales about foreign lands and far flung places, seemed better able to attract the girls, much to the chagrin of the day boys. Well that's how we saw it!

What did this idyllic lifestyle cost? I think my dad paid about £50 per term when I started but then we only needed a tup'ney ha'penny stamp (2½d or one penny in new money) on the letter home.

*Mr A Ellender*