

Charity Week

This year the sixth form voted to raise money for 'Brace', an Alzheimer's research charity.

D of E Gold Award

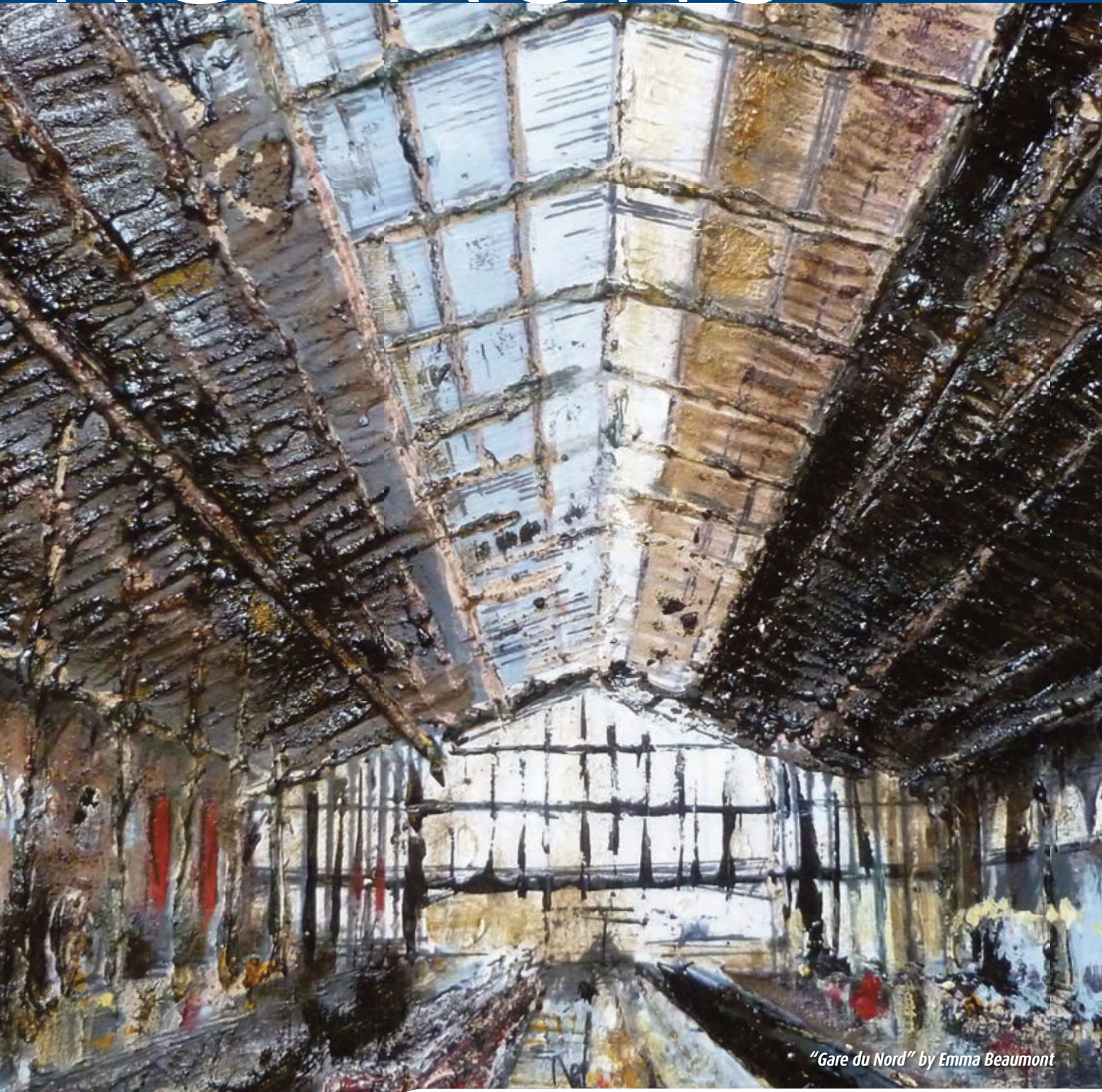
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New Staff

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RGS News

Issue 45 Autumn 2016



"Gare du Nord" by Emma Beaumont



Welcome...

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to the latest edition of the RGS News and my sincere thanks, as ever, to my secretary Mrs Hargraves and to the excellent editorial team of Poppy Dunstan, Katie Fraser, Katie Veitch, Georgie Wardall and Lucy Wicks.



They have all done a superb job of gathering the articles, with Mrs Hargraves overseeing its production. I think you will agree there is plenty to enjoy and to admire in terms of what the students spend their time doing outside the classroom.

As I write, I am reminded of the fact that I am in my last year at RGS. The governors have been working hard to find a successor and I expect that by the time you read this my successor will have been appointed. There is no doubt that they will be taking over an outstanding school in every respect, not only in mere Ofsted terms. The school is larger than ever and the results which were achieved last summer make RGS one of the top performing schools in the North of England. A Progress 8 measure of +0.47 for 'progress at GCSE' is higher than the average for other grammar schools and is clearly much higher than the national figure, which is fixed at zero for all schools. That means that students at RGS have made, on average, better than expected progress by half a grade per subject. The percentage of A*s at A2 level was also higher than the national average for both selective and independent schools. There is no doubt that the current A level and GCSE students have quite a challenge on their hands to emulate these achievements.

I enjoyed enormously the visit by Bridget Kendall to Speech Day and there is no doubt that she inspired the students. Other events, including House Drama and the Carol Service are regular features in the school calendar and, once again, were incredibly enjoyable.

You will see that sport is going through a 'purple patch' and the U16 girls in particular are County champions for both netball and hockey; they are clearly an excellent group of athletes.

The new staff, although small in number this year, have settled very well into their rôles and are already beginning to make an excellent contribution to the school and its success. Preparation is already underway for the coming year, both in terms of staffing and curriculum, and as soon as decisions are made I will keep you informed. One decision that was taken recently is to allow students a free choice of a modern foreign language at GCSE, rather than having to study French. This will be in place for September 2017.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year, and I look forward to seeing you in 2017.

With best wishes



M L Pearman (Headmaster)

Music News RGS Autumn Concert Report

It was an action-packed five weeks since returning from the Summer break, especially so in the music department where everyone has been rehearsing their socks off for the Autumn concert and it can definitely be said that all the hard work was worth it.

The first years kicked off the concert with a bang by singing "Kokleoko" and a 'mash up' of "When the Saints Go Marching In" and "Swing Low Sweet Chariot". These songs are now traditionally sung by the first years at this concert and it was lovely to see them bonding and getting to know each other through their singing.

A stand-out performance was given by the guitar ensemble which was established two years ago by Mrs Morpeth, who arranges much of their repertoire. They played the intricate piece "Fantasia Espinola" which gave the audience a real flavour of Spain (there really could have been some flamenco dancers in the room!) Following them was the junior strings ensemble who played "Andante" from Haydn's "Surprise Symphony" and later in the concert we were treated to another movement from this symphony by the newly formed Chamber Orchestra who played the "Minuet and Trio". The Chamber Orchestra were making their first appearance having been put together in September to give some of the more accomplished strings players a challenge. In March they will accompany the choirs in the "Vivaldi Gloria" at Holy Trinity Church.

The senior girls' choir sang Noel Gallagher's "Half the World Away" which many of us will recognise from last year's well known Christmas John Lewis advert. The pop theme continued with the wind band who played "Hard Day's Night" and then the Man Choir serenaded the audience with the 80's classic "Don't You Want Me Baby". At the end of last year Man Choir (in the words of Mr Seymour) "lost a lot of good men" but they all stepped up and gave a rousing rendition of this iconic song.

Musicality, who are current champions at the Harrogate International Festival of Music and Drama, treated the audience to "Seasons of Love" from the musical 'Rent' which featured three soloists. They also sang a very complex African song which was in many parts and demonstrated their musical skills to the full. Chamber Choir rounded off the concert with a fine performance of the well known classic "Singing in the Rain" which was very appropriate given the weather conditions outside.

This was Mrs Morpeth's last concert before going on maternity leave so special thanks and best wishes go to her for all her help and hard work in the music department. Finally a massive thank you must go to Mr Seymour for all his musical expertise and hard work in bringing this concert together after only five weeks of term and rehearsals.

Beth Smart, U6A



Cover image: "Gare du Nord"
by Emma Beaumont

Gare du Nord

The art department was delighted to receive notification from The National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS) that Emma Beaumont's artwork has been selected for exhibition in next year's NADFAS/RBA exhibition.

This is truly well-deserved and very exciting, as only twenty-two art works have been selected for the exhibition, from hundreds of submissions nationally.

The art work has been collected by Debbie Burrows the NADFAS regional representative, so it can be framed and delivered to London at the appropriate time. In due course, we will receive an invitation to travel to London and attend one or both previews - exciting! The first exhibition will be held at the Lloyds building and the second will be held at NADFAS House on the Mall.

The National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies (NADFAS) is a leading arts charity which works to advance decorative and fine arts education and appreciation, alongside promoting the conservation of our artistic heritage.

Emma Beaumont, who is now studying architecture at Sheffield University, is thrilled to accept the award.

Mrs Henson, Head of Art

World Challenge 2016

Malaysia & Borneo

With all of our belongings for the month meticulously packed into one rucksack, two years of fundraising had finally bought us to departure day.

We said bittersweet goodbyes to our parents and siblings and then ventured into the hall to begin our adventure to Malaysia and Borneo.

After a thorough kit check, last minute practice at setting up hammocks and a sleepless night on the hall floor, we set off for Manchester airport. We made our first flight to Heathrow and then proceeded to sit in a queue for three hours waiting to check in for our 13 hour flight to Kuala Lumpur. After a connecting flight to Kuching, bleary-eyed we stepped out into the blazing 35 degree heat of Sarawak, Borneo.

A hair-raising taxi ride later we arrived at our first hostel, the only thing we had booked for the next month. We went straight out to explore and had the first of many noodle dishes. The first phase of our expedition was acclimatisation in Kubah National Park, where we did a trek to get used to the jungle environment. This brought us out at a freezing cold waterfall which we all gladly went straight under after walking all morning in high humidity. During this period we also visited Matang Wildlife Centre and saw a number of animals being rehabilitated, including a 32 year old Orangutan called Peter. We travelled back to Kuching and then took the flight to Miri in Northern Borneo to prepare for our week-long trek in the Kelabit Highlands.

The trek phase began with a thrilling, for some, and terrifying for others, flight in a twin Otter, 12-seater plane to the remote village of Bario. This was unlike any other plane trip as we had to all be individually weighed with our bags to ensure the plane was not overloaded. On arrival at 'Nancy's Guesthouse', there was a last-minute kit panic where we all tried to limit the weight of our bags as much as possible. We were introduced to our guides, Petra and Edwin, who would lead us through the jungle for the next four days. They informed us an early start was needed so we could avoid walking in the real heat of the afternoon. The reality set in as the first leech attack took place - we would all become experts at removing them by the end of the trek. After a hard day trekking through the sticky and bug-ridden jungle, we arrived at the first camp site which turned out to be just a clearing in the trees! Everyone ran to try and reserve the best set of trees in order to achieve a comfortable hammock set-up. After nearly two hours, 14 hammocks, bashers and mosquito nets were proudly hanging with a maze of para-cord creating a definite trip hazard! The evening was spent trying to cook a meal for everyone on an open fire with only two pans! Dinner was eventually served successfully, even though a few people found

some bugs in their pasta! The next two days followed in a similar fashion, with everyone becoming much more used to the jungle atmosphere.

On our last night in the jungle, our guide Petra showed us all how to make cups out of bamboo which proved more difficult than expected. However, the real challenge came when we realised we'd have to carry them in our bags for the next two weeks without cracking them! After a final sleepless night in the hammocks, we packed up for the last time and set off out of the jungle. After a gruelling last day trekking with sore feet and aching shoulders we finally arrived back at the guest house feeling elated but in need of shower, which we would later realise would have to wait until we had flown back to Miri the next day... One of the main parts of our expedition was the project phase where we spent a week volunteering at Ace Lighthouse Academy. This involved generally interacting with the children being educated there who had been bought from a range of tribes from all across Malaysia. This was a really rewarding experience for all of us, as it was easy to see the impact the work we did had on the small community. During the week, we spent some time concreting a stretch of road to allow building materials to be transported for the planned building of a new school to accommodate more students. We also built a dam in the jungle behind the compound which was to allow for a more regular water supply during the different seasons. In the evenings we were fortunate enough to gain a real insight into the lives of the children who lived and learnt there, as they told us about their families and also the types of things they learnt. This was particularly hard-hitting, as many of the girls explained that if they were still living with their tribes it is likely they would already be married with children. These girls were as young as 12 and 13 years old. The work of Koh (who leads the school) isn't just limited to academic education, but also cultural education, as they teach the girls that a career is possible for them to achieve.

Throughout the month we had interspersed rest and relaxation phases, some of which were planned in advance and others we organised on the day! We spent the majority of the first week in Kuching where we created a 'magical mystery tour' comprising of all the main attractions of the city including the famous Cat Museum which proved quite difficult to find. After the acclimatisation phase we travelled to Semmengoh Wildlife Reserve where we were lucky enough to see orangutans which weren't in cages and mingled with the public.



After the project phase we travelled to the Cameron Highlands to spend the day white water rafting, which was thoroughly enjoyable, although we had to purposefully capsize our boat to add some excitement as the river level was so low! We spent a couple of days in magnificent Kuala Lumpur where we had lunch at a revolving restaurant at the top of the Menara tower (the tallest building in KL) and explored the bustling Chinese market. Our main period of R&R was on the island of Pulau Pangkor where we had saved enough money in our budget to stay in a hotel within 100m of the stunning beach. After a month of being constantly on the go, and always planning ahead, the chance to relax by the pool was welcomed by everyone!

Back at Manchester Airport we all realized, on reflection, the true extent of what we had achieved over the last month. Living and working with the same people for the whole time gave us an appreciation for each other, despite a few inevitable disagreements. Although the trip certainly lived up to its name and was a challenge, it was an experience that I don't believe any of us will ever forget, including the new friendships we have formed. World Challenge is an experience I would recommend to anyone; expect to be pushed out of your comfort zone, but come back a more confident person with fantastic memories.

Lucy Wicks, U6B





Volunteering in Ghana

This summer I volunteered as a carer at the 'Jesus is King' orphanage in Sekondi, Western Ghana. It was truly a life-changing trip and one which I will never forget.

I lived and worked in the orphanage for three weeks; it was a parallel universe compared to home, with no running water and only brief periods of electricity. It meant frequent trips to a nearby well where we had to collect water for showering and cooking; carrying the buckets 'African style', on our heads. The children found it hilarious to watch us westerners struggle; tipping half our water onto the floor or ourselves. I was on hand 24 hours a day, entertaining and looking after the 28 children.

As it was the summer holidays, keeping the children busy was my main priority. This was achieved through trips to the beach and river, instrumental lessons, countless games of dodge ball, football and 'hairdressers' as well as a failed attempt at baking brownies. I had to tackle the language barrier, the children's everyday demands and I attempted to cook, clean, wash and help with everyday projects. The children ranged in age from 5 to 18 and came from a variety of backgrounds, predominantly being abandoned at birth or having unfit parents. The trip was eye-opening in so many ways; it was emotionally challenging, especially when three of the children contracted malaria, and made me aware of how privileged I am. It is difficult to express in words how incredible and rewarding this experience was. Ghana is the most amazing and friendly place and I would love to go back.

Airlie Mason, U6A

Geography Trip to Malham

On Friday 30th September, the fifth year geographers visited the beautiful Malham village and Malham Cove in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Malham is classed as a 'honeypot site', a small tourist site which attracts a large number of visitors each year. This is because Malham Cove is a geographical wonder and people travel from miles around to see the limestone cove and pavement and to walk, cycle and rock climb in the surrounding landscape.

Fifth year geographers are completing a controlled assessment to evaluate the impacts that tourism has on Malham and whether visitors are having a positive or a negative impact on the landscape.

The weather forecast was not good but everyone was in good spirits and prepared for the showers to come. In heavy rain and with soggy booklets the students carried on collecting a range of quantitative and qualitative data to support their investigation. They were very motivated and politely enquired to members of the public the purpose of their visit and where they had come from. The students were impressed by the size of the cove and the strength of the rock climbers attempting to climb the challenging routes up the cove!

A good day was had by all with the students celebrating with a 'sing-song' on the return journey!

Mrs Wainwright, Mrs Keelan-Edwards, Miss Murray and Mrs Pickard accompanied the trip, together with Alejandra and Jane our 'gap' students.

Trip Highlights

As part of our Geography GCSE, we study tourism as part of human geography. Using our knowledge of the tourism topic we also do a controlled assessment which contributes towards 25% of our GCSE grade. This year, our exam assessment question is: "Evaluate the impacts of tourism on Malham".

To investigate this, the Year 11 geography students went on a field trip to Malham to collect essential data. We completed a booklet whilst there and assessed the environment using six different methods of primary data collection, including: annotated field sketches, land-use mapping and footpath erosion surveys. These methods were completed at various areas around Malham which enabled us to see which places are impacted more significantly as a result of tourists. During our day we walked from the Malham visitor centre, through the village and then out through some fields across to Malham cove. After our lunch, we climbed up to the top of the cove where there is a large area of deeply eroded limestone pavement. The pavement in Malham is one of the largest areas of limestone found in the UK. The field trip overall was interesting and incredibly important for us as students to discover and assess the impacts of tourism first hand in a village surrounded by an "Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty".

Amie Fraser, 5A



Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award



After our practice expedition of canoeing on Lake Windermere, Lydia Poole, Katie Moorhouse, Tom Dale, Tom Lewis, Will Barker and I felt like professionals!

However, on reflection we may have slightly over exaggerated our canoeing prowess and were in fact in for a very challenging, yet enjoyable, couple of days to come!

Setting off from Scotch Corner in the early hours of Friday morning, we arrived at our first camp site in Fort William in time for tea. One of the many perks of canoeing is the large amount of food that we could take, and of course this was taken full advantage of! On our first night camping we had a BBQ on the go, burgers were frying and pasta was cooking; it was delicious. The next morning bacon sandwiches were eaten and we began to canoe the 79 miles of the Great Glen Way. On the first day we canoed the first part of the Caledonian Canal, followed by Loch Lochy to reach our camp site which, like the ones to follow, was a wild camp site. Once again, burgers were made and a fire pit was discovered, around which we spent the night chatting and watching the sun set over the Loch.

The next day, we decided to canoe an extra 10km beyond our original camp site in order to cover more distance. We soon reached Fort Augustus with a rather soaked Katie, following her fall into the river, and looked out onto Loch Ness. It was big. Knowing we had a large amount of distance still to cover, we quickly ate lunch and set off. It was at this point when the wind and rain built up, and we were heading straight into it. 3 hours of canoeing later, we could still see Fort Augustus behind us and the group was shattered. It was not until 12 hours after setting off that morning, when we reached the campsite at 9pm, hungry, tired and physically drained. The rain continued to pour and midges were out in force, but as a team we set up camp and made tea before proceeding to bed for a well-earned sleep; needless to say, everyone appreciated the lie-in the next day!

On our third and final day of canoeing, with the wind now in our favour, we put up sails, umbrellas, flysheets and whatever else we could find to cruise down the remaining stretch of Loch Ness! After a couple of hours of canoeing we finally made it to Inverness and our D of E Gold canoeing expedition was over. Although at times it was tough and was most definitely a challenge, it's fair to say that I, like the others, have learnt a lot about myself through participating in D of E and I would highly recommend it to anyone wishing to do it.

Sophie Lake, U6G

Engineering Gold Crest Award

Young engineers have struck gold by winning national recognition for a project.

The pupils - Alec Cavell-Taylor, Patrick Moon, Jonathan Tanner and John Ashton - had to complete around 70 hours of project work to achieve the highest accolade in CREST, a UK-wide award scheme to support students' interest in science, technology, engineering and maths.

The challenge began for the Ripon Grammar School boys early last year when they were set their task by international engineering company Siemens to design and prototype a train detection system.

Patrick explained: "It had to be cheap to implement and could warn pedestrians of an approaching train on rural pedestrian level crossings.

"After a number of setbacks, including a three-week delay after our residential workshop was cancelled due to flooding, we finally produced a prototype."

Drawing on Jonathan's programming expertise, the team designed a piece of software that enabled them to detect a train, using Piezo hardware, up to two kilometres away. Coupled with a warning unit, it could successfully detect and notify pedestrians of approaching trains.

The boys presented their findings and final portfolio to a panel of judges with engineering expertise at the

CREST final hosted at Sheffield Hallam University, where they were awarded the Gold Crest Award for exceptional effort and became Industrial Cadets.

Patrick added: "It was a great experience and we would all highly recommended it to any students considering an engineering degree."

Engineering teacher at Ripon Grammar School, Mr Barker, said: "I'm really delighted for the students. After their residential in Lancaster was cancelled due to the flooding, I thought they would be limited to silver, so their gold CREST award achievement is even more impressive."



Charity Week 2016



The last week before October half term was, as ever, dedicated to Charity Week.

This year, the sixth form voted to raise money for 'Brace', an Alzheimer's research charity. This is an area which, sadly, many RGS students have some personal experience with and so we were keen to try and raise as much money as possible to help combat the disease.

In order to do so, the whole school was involved in a packed week of activities: there were shows on at each break and lunchtime, a fundraiser run by each form, after school events and a non-uniform day. For many students, the annual highlight of charity week is seeing some unexpected faces providing break and lunchtime entertainment, from the biology and physics departments' memorable renditions of classic hits in the 'Science Lip-sync Battle' held on Tuesday break, to the interpretation of the 'Lion King' as this year's staff pantomime, featuring a stampede of second year wildebeest and lots of face-painted members of staff. Alongside these, there were game shows, a version of 'Total Wipe-out' held in the sports hall, a talent show and a performance from the very talented teachers' band: 'Eat Sleep Teach Repeat'.

This year saw more after school events than normal, with movie nights held for the first years and sixth form, a 'memory colour run' and the annual sixth form charity ball. The colour run was a



great success, with over 150 students taking part in a run around the school site whilst having powdered paint thrown at them from various colour stations, something which all involved seemed to enjoy!

Whilst the organised events make up a huge part of charity week fundraising, the week wouldn't be possible without the contributions of the forms: each form was tasked with coming up with a fundraising idea to run. These included stalls at break time selling cakes and sweets, sponsored 'sponge the teacher' events, a carwash, photo-booth and more. Having students of

all years getting involved is an important part of Charity Week, so it was great to see this happening.

The final sum raised is £10,392.14 which is a very significant sum of money and will make a huge difference to 'Brace'. For this we would like to thank all of the students and staff who got involved and donated. Charity Week is an annual highlight of the school calendar, both as a chance to have fun doing something different and as an opportunity to raise a lot of money and awareness for a very worthwhile cause.

Katie Veitch, U6B

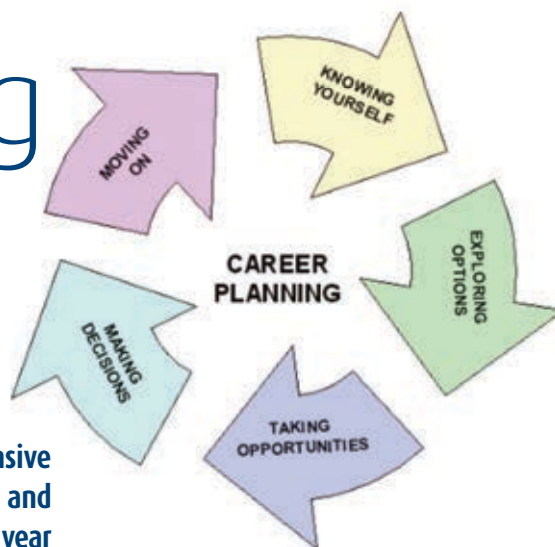
Planning Your Career

At RGS we have a comprehensive programme of careers education and guidance which runs from the first year through to the sixth form.

In addition, students are encouraged to participate in appropriate events out of school where they can add to their skills and experience and explore a variety of exciting careers and courses. Opportunities are advertised on the notice boards around school and careers notices are emailed regularly to sixth form students and posted on Sharepoint.

There is more information about our careers programme and links to a wide range of recommended websites on www.ripogrammar.co.uk/academic/careers

Mrs F Wilson, Head of Careers Guidance



Within a week of joining the school lower-sixth form student Anna Rimmer had spotted an event at the University of Cambridge aimed at female students interested in economics. This resulted in a special day out for Anna:

On 22 September I was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel down to Cambridge University to attend the 'Women in Economics Day 2016', centring around Brexit and what will

happen next. The day was filled with discussions and panels with various high profile speakers, including:

- Dr Victoria Bateman, Director of Studies in Economics at Gonville and Caius College
- Dr Meredith Crowley, formerly at the Federal Reserve Bank Chicago
- Dr Roberta Guerrina, European policy expert and Head of Politics, University of Surrey

Throughout the day there were discussions on various topics, ranging from "Is Brexit Britain Broken?" where we looked at specific industries such as the housing market in order to evaluate this, to "The Role of Women, How the West Got Rich" where we examined the role of women in Economic History. There was also a tour around the college.

A personal highlight for me would have to be the mock lecture at the end of the day where we really got to see what it would be like to be a Cambridge student. The lecture was an introduction to Economic History and, despite the incredibly fast pace, I found it to be both informative and enjoyable. It was also really useful to be able to discuss the application process with current Cambridge Economics students, as there were many opportunities for this throughout the day. This has given me several ideas on how to prepare for the incredibly competitive application process. Overall, it was a wonderful day and I feel I got so much out of it. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who was considering attending one of these events in the future.

Anna Rimmer, I6D

Paris Art Trip

Sixth Form

On 10th November the A-level art group travelled to Paris by the Eurostar. After arriving in Paris, we visited the Pompidou, an architecturally exciting building which appears "inside-out".

We saw a vast selection of art including an exhibition showcasing artists' responses to the Soviet Union during and after the Cold War.

Early the next day, we took the metro to the Sacré-Coeur, experiencing amazing views over Paris. We then visited the Picasso Museum, having a guided tour of the works of both Picasso and Giacometti.

It was interesting to see the connections and similarities between the two artists. We walked through the centre of Paris seeing the Notre Dame and the "town hall" (it was only a

little more impressive than Ripon's...). We next looked around The Louvre seeing the Mona Lisa and works by Anselm Kiefer- an artist many of the students in our group are studying. For tea, we ate at Le Bouillon Chartier, a vintage, nostalgic restaurant where we were able to practise our French in an impressive setting. To end the day, we enjoyed a boat trip along the River Seine. Despite the cold, we had a great time seeing Paris by night and of course everyone was thrilled to see the Eiffel Tower sparkle.

On Saturday, we saw a beautiful Monet painting which was commissioned by the French President, George Clemenceau, in Musée de l'Orangerie along with a collection of work focusing around the Great Depression. The Musée d'Orsay, which we visited in the afternoon, displayed some of Van Gogh's, Monet's and Toulouse-Lautrec's most famous paintings. The final gallery of our stay in Paris was The Musée d'Art Moderne, which had a variety of sculptural, photographic and traditional pieces. Our visit to Paris has been both useful to our individual studies yet also extremely enjoyable, and of course we will not forget Mr Duckworth's new affinity for 'dabbing'.

Poppy Dunstan, U6E and Katie Fraser, U6G





News from the Parents' Association

Masked Ball

Saturday June 24th 2017

We've started the new academic year well with two very jolly social events which have contributed nearly £2,000 into our funds.

The quiz night, accompanied by lots of wine and some cheese, had a record turn out this year of nine teams, lending a very competitive edge to the proceedings. Thanks to Margaret and Annie for all their help and to Fiona for setting some very challenging questions! In October we de-camped to Bishop Monkton village hall for our Comedy and Curry evening. Two hilarious comedians entertained the audience after a tasty curry and delicious pudding. Thanks to Nigel and his team for a great evening, and Linda for running the bar with draught beer and Pimms, in addition to the usual offerings! We sold around 75 tickets and also ran a raffle with lots of super prizes donated by some new parents - thank you to all of you. We raised over £1,200 and are considering bids from school to make good use of the money.

The Parents' Association now has all its events on Parentpay, so you can buy tickets for our Burns' Night ceilidh and haggis supper online! £25 per person which is fantastic value for money - the ticket price is worth it just for the piper and ceilidh band! It's a great evening, and if you buy your ticket before Christmas you get a 10% discount!

Tickets are also now available for the Midsummer Masked Ball. Our last Ball in 2014 was a triumph, held in a beautiful marquee on a lovely summer evening, with a fabulous three-course meal (catered by a top Harrogate catering business), live entertainment, welcome drinks

and dancing to a live band. So, dust off your dinner suit and splash out on a new posh frock as this is one event you do not want to miss!

Please contact me if you can offer an auction prize for this event at julia_w_61@hotmail.co.uk Have you signed up for Easy Fundraising yet? Registration takes about 4 minutes and once you are on, virtually every online purchase you make will generate a small percentage towards the Parents' Association funds. You won't pay a premium on your purchases as lots of big retailers subscribe to the scheme including John Lewis, Boden and Argos. Since registering Ripon Grammar School Parents' Association we have raised over £1,300 in this way so please do sign up.

Thanks to all the committee members, volunteers and bakers who work so hard - every little bit helps! And thank you to those of you coming along and enjoying our events. If you are new parents we will always put you with other new parents and, wherever possible, with children in the same year or even form. Don't be shy, we're always very happy to see new faces.

Happy Christmas

Julia Whitham, Chair, PA

Internet Safety



"Children now have computer equipment which is more sophisticated than when man first landed on the moon," was one of many shocking statistics welcoming parents as they attended the parents' internet safety evening hosted at the school on 20 October.

For the evening, retired detective Sarah Lynch, with thirteen years of experience, came to give a thorough and informative presentation about the online life to which their children may have access. With speciality in serious crimes and online issues, Sarah was more than qualified to condense her years of expertise into an evening's worth of information.

After a greeting from Mr Pearman, an audience of conscientious and interested parents enjoyed information on the capabilities of the cutting-edge technology available to us. A mother herself, Sarah was able to offer a personal perspective on social media; she allows her children to use social media, because with the right support its benefits outweigh the risks it may pose. Furthermore,

with regard to your child's internet usage, Sarah explained "if they think you understand, they'll be open to discussion." Communication is key between you and your child to keep them safe online. It is recommended to keep up-to-date with your child's apps and interests, by asking questions such as where they heard about it, why it's good, and who else uses it at school.

Following a summary of passwords and their need to be complex, featuring both numbers and punctuation as well as letters, Sarah went on to explain a key term in understanding internet safety which is arguably hardly known of ie digital footprint. An individual's digital footprint is, in short, every click made and every key pressed. It is every email sent, every photo shared, and every web search. And it is accessible to anyone. It is crucial that we are aware of the footprint we leave behind us.

Sarah put equal emphasis onto the awareness we must have of what we post online to our social media. She advised the consideration of everything posted, in the form of asking ourselves, would you put the post on the village noticeboard? If the answer is 'no', then it isn't something that should be put onto your social media, where it's available for anyone to see, perhaps even a potential future employer.

For further advice, an e-magazine is available through the link <http://www.vodafone.com/content/digital-parenting.html>.

Georgina Wardall, U6C



Christmas Card Competition

This year we asked GCSE art students to design our school Christmas card, and we have chosen this one by Alia Moon in 4B.

We also asked lower school students to design the front cover for the Carol Service programme, and the chosen design for this is by Joshua Linegar, 3B.

Thanks to all students who took the time to submit an entry for consideration, which were all of a very high standard.

Headmaster's Commendations

Headmaster's Commendations are awards given to students in recognition of exceptional pieces of work done in any subject.

Students are nominated by the teacher for whom they did the work and then, following an announcement in assembly, the student can collect their certificate from Mr Pearman. Work awarded a Headmaster's Commendation is typically a piece of an excellent quality, or that for which a huge amount of effort went in to, so to be recognised in this way is a brilliant achievement.

Annabel Brown (2C) was recently awarded a Headmaster's Commendation for an outstanding piece of work in English. Tasked with writing and illustrating a children's story aimed at a three year old, Annabel constructed her beautiful book 'The Missing Sheepdog' over half term. Annabel wrote:

"I thought a farmyard might be appropriate since children like animals. Also, the plot picked up on the fact that the sheepdog was mischievous and our English teacher told us that young children would like that aspect of a book. In total, my book took me about twelve hours, making little farmyard animals to go on each page. Most of the animals were textured and there were plenty of flaps and this was what took me so much time.

I think most people who do receive commendations spend a lot of time working on their piece so therefore to be given something acknowledging their efforts does make it seem worthwhile to have given up so much time".

Katie Veitch, U6B

A: Christmas card designed by Alia Moon, B: Carol Service Programme cover by Joshua Linegar, C: The Naughty Sheepdog book designed by Annabel Brown

House Drama

House Drama is an annual competition where, at the beginning of the year, a group of sixth-form students work with other members of their House to produce a one-act play within three months. This has always been a successful event that unites students across the years.

Each House has to choose their production and prepare their script, which is usually done over the summer holidays. They then advertise this and the sixth-form students hold their auditions before getting rehearsals underway!

This year the four plays were 'Dracula', 'Sweeney Todd', 'Holes' and 'Wicked' which were performed on 17 and 18 November. Practically every aspect of these productions is student-led. The teams have to book rehearsal rooms, design their set and work with their casts to bring together a production in what is truly a very short space of time. It is an experience that, although often stressful, is incredibly rewarding and has developed people's love of the theatre over the years.

Grace Branch, U6D

School House Wicked

As the curtains opened to the Munchkins of Oz celebrating the death of the Wicked Witch of the West, School House's performance of Wicked began. Wicked tells the incredible untold story of an unlikely but profound friendship between two girls who first meet as sorcery students at Shiz University, the very popular Glinda and a misunderstood green girl named Elphaba. Following an encounter with The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, their friendship reaches a crossroads and their lives take very different paths. Glinda's desire for popularity sees her seduced by power while Elphaba's determination to remain true to herself, and to those around her, will have unexpected and shocking consequences for her future. Their extraordinary adventures in Oz will ultimately see them fulfil their destinies as Glinda The Good and the Wicked Witch of the West. Kirsty Arrowsmith's excellent portrayal of Elphaba's plight in trying to care for her sister Nessarose and stop the abduction of Oz's animals all whilst being painted a shocking shade of green provided the audience with an insight into her past and also what led to her towards her destiny. Coupled with Katherine Chatterton as Glinda, providing some humour with the top tips for being popular, the relationship between the two girls was shown excellently. Fiyero, the love interest of both girls played by Nat Ireland added a lighter atmosphere to the play. With some applaudable technical ambition, including the Wizard's face being projected, and a flying broomstick, as well as some wonderful costumes, School's performance was highly enjoyed by all.

Director - Ross Sullivan





Hutton House

Sweeney Todd

The deeply troubled barber, Sweeney Todd (Elliot Hutchinson), is an ex-convict who had been falsely accused by Judge Turpin (Dominic Livesey). The judge had an eye for Todd's wife, Lucy, so locked him up for fifteen years so that he could pry on her, also sending her mad – and apparently to her death – in the process. The main story presents Todd returning to his barber shop seeking revenge on Judge Turpin and the Judge's assistant – the Beadle (Gus Smith). Underneath Todd's barber shop is home to the character of Mrs Lovett – whose extravagant, no-nonsense persona was portrayed perfectly by Sofia Robinson. Mrs Lovett also owns a pie shop, but the price of meat is unbearably high, and her pies have been deemed 'the worst pies in London'. Due to an unfortunate and 'accidental' slip of his razor, Todd kills his first victim and the 'eminently practical' Mrs Lovett conjures up a plan to use the meat of Todd's clients in her pies, allowing her business to boom and providing Todd with a fool-proof way to make the judge pay for his crimes. Due to the hard work of cast and directors, together with copious amounts of fake blood, Hutton were able to shape this disturbing story into what was a witty and fundamentally tragic production, resulting in a great range of reactions from the audience – from laughter to sheer horror.

Directors: Sophie Ryan and Patrick Moon



De Grey House

Dracula

This year's De Grey House drama was a re telling of a classic, Dracula. The classic theme of good vs evil runs throughout, although good doesn't always win. The heroes of the story, Jonathon Harker (Jasper Wood) and John Seward (Will Penny) must team up with the para-normal expert Abraham van Helsing (Thaddius Davy) to defeat Dracula (Euan Clyde), a seemingly all-powerful being who will stop at nothing to make Mina Harker (Lily Millington) a bride of his own. Throughout the story our intrepid heroes must pull together to discover what he really wants, and how to accomplish the seemingly impossible task of stopping him, and his army of demons. The lives of the characters all converge at this one moment in time and, despite their differences, their only hope is to work together. This battle tests each character's bravery in the face of danger and each one must overcome adversity to survive. This tale incorporates fear, suspense, love, humour and loyalty, all the aspects of the classic, making it a captivating show and leaving the audience on the edge of their seats.

Director: Grace Eyles

Porteus House

Holes

Set in the middle of a desert, 'Holes' is a story that brings the past into the present through the lives of the two teenagers, Stanley (Freddie Dunn) and Zero (Elizabeth Calland-Brooke). Both have been sent to a detention camp for young boys due to their shoe-related crimes, where they have to dig one hole each day.

Over the course of the story truths are revealed, a family curse is broken and treasure is found. There was a wide range of characters for our cast to get sunk into; from hot-headed campers that were always looking for a fight (Lily Aikman) to the patronisingly cheerful Mom (Harry Canning) whose very walk radiated over-enthusiasm. This is a story that calls for exaggerated acting and comedy which Harry Cushing provided with ease as the Lawyer, literally pulling down the older characters to his height to threaten them. It was the older characters that brought the serious aspects to contrast this, with Louisa Chatterton commanding authority and dominating the stage as the Warden, or Libby Rickard and Finn Atkinson playing out the origin of the curse that looms over the whole story as Madame Zeroni and Eyla Yelnats. Everyone involved in the production made it a wonderful experience, bringing laughs and cheer to every rehearsal. They are all very talented and I hope they will continue to get involved in future productions!

Director: Grace Branch



Feminist Society

The RGS Feminist Society is a place for students from across the school to discuss a wide range of issues relating to gender.

We try and raise awareness of these issues and have debates over different views on them. We have had some interesting discussions so far this year: topics covered include women in sport, gender and medicine and the impact of gender on the US presidential election.

With significant inequalities between genders still existing across the world today, even in our own society, recognising these and being able to discuss and debate them is more important than ever. There is a lot of stigma and misunderstanding surrounding feminism, but we see it as important to continue to promote gender equality and make space to address gender issues. The Feminist Society values the inclusivity of students from across the school: all ages, genders and viewpoints are always welcome! Should students wish to come along, we meet weekly, with posters around school to inform of time and location. We have a different discussion topic each week, and are always open to suggestions and new members.

Katie Veitch, U6B

Theatre

On 10th October, forty-five students and staff went to Leeds to see Andrea Arnold's award winning cinematic take on the novel Wuthering Heights, with a panel discussion on artists' approaches to Brontë adaptations.

The panel featured Linda Marshall-Griffiths, the writer behind a radical new adaptation of Villette and David Nixon OBE, Artistic Director of Northern Ballet, to discuss his approach to re-interpreting Wuthering Heights through dance.

They were joined by Nancy Meckler, director of Shared Experience's Brontë, using the Brontës' extraordinary lives as source material. An overview of Brontë adaptations on film and an introduction to Andrea Arnold's film was provided by Dr Michael Lawrence, Reader in Film Studies at the University of Sussex. Although sometimes shocking in its depiction of nineteenth century rural life, the film was nonetheless inspiring and provoked much heated discussion among the pupils afterwards!

Mrs Mars

Having studied Wuthering Heights at AS level last year, and going on to study it again as part of the A Level course, the opportunity to hear experts discuss the work of the Brontës was a valuable one. The most interesting part was being able to hear how these works can continue to be re-imagined in innovative ways, demonstrating the longevity of the texts and the way in which they can still be relevant to audiences today. The film of Wuthering Heights provided a startling interpretation of the novel, giving a real insight into the details of the world imagined by Emily Brontë.

Katie Veitch, U6B



Costa Rica Visit

In the summer holidays I was privileged to visit Costa Rica, having been selected to represent North East England Girlguiding on a long haul, service trip.

After twenty-two hours travelling, we arrived safely in San José in Costa Rica. For our first traditional Costa Rican meal, we enjoyed an array of wonderful fresh fruit, rice and beans. The following morning we woke up early, and it was surreal to hear the exotic birds in the coconut trees.

On arrival in Osa we were introduced to the projects that we would be taking part in which included mangrove reforestation and turtle conservation. We travelled to an isolated beach from which we would work with the turtles. The Pacific side of Costa Rica has both green turtles and Hawksbill turtles (Hawksbills being the more endangered). Incredibly we caught four Hawksbill turtles in one day. On our second day in Osa, we took part in mangrove reforestation. This is important as the turtles' natural food source of coral has been destroyed, meaning that the mangroves are their new food source which need to be maintained.

We then travelled on to Providencia, into the cloud forest. After the climb up to the self-sufficient, family farm where we were staying, we were rewarded by the most sensational view of lush rainforest. We milked cows and made cheese at a local farm and were taken on a walk in the rainforest by a local teenager. We also made baskets out of recycled material

and visited a waterfall. It was an incredible experience to stay with such a grateful, kind and hospitable family who were so proud to share their basic yet amazing way of life with us.

After travelling to the Caribbean side of the country, we were extremely privileged to visit an indigenous tribe in the Talamanca Mountains known as the Bri Bri. Few people are invited to visit them on their sacred land. The remote village can only be reached via a rugged trail, and to get there we took two buses, crossed three rivers (two by foot, one by boat) and trekked up into the mountains. They shared their extensive knowledge of the rain forest, and opened up their homes to us.

We spent two nights in the Veragua Rainforest experiencing all aspects of the unique habitat. We took part in butterfly and bull frog conservation, and took a cable car down to the forest floor, enjoying the beautiful views and sounds of the rainforest, even seeing a baby armadillo on the way to breakfast!

Our final location was at a gorgeous hotel at the base of Arenal volcano. We visited an activity centre where we completed twelve zip-lines, we flew over the top of the rainforest canopy and got an absolutely breathtaking view. We visited a local elementary school and then an orphanage, where we were greeted from our minibus by a swarm of excited and adorable children who showed us to our seats. They were all wearing traditional Costa Rican dress, and they performed dances to traditional music.

I feel humbled to have been able to travel around such a diverse, unique and remarkable country, helping communities and conservation projects. My time in Costa Rica is an opportunity that I will certainly never forget.

Poppy Dunstan, U6E



Masterplan for RGS 3G pitch



The planning application can be viewed at <https://onlineplanningregister.northyorks.gov.uk/register/PlanAppDisp.aspx?recno=9912> our reference number is NY/2016/0039/FUL and we hope to hear whether planning permission has been granted in the next couple of months.

The scheme proposes two playing pitches, a new flood-lit, all-weather 3G pitch and a re-sited graded rugby pitch (to be laid out to an improved specification to increase usability).

The main school playing fields are located to the south of the main school buildings, on the north-east side of Clothholme Road. Logically, this was considered the most appropriate location. The playing field itself is roughly split down the middle in an east-west direction with the northern half set at a higher

level accommodating the cricket square along with other ancillary equipment/pitches (basketball, cricket nets etc). The southern section is slightly larger and currently contains a two grass pitches, one junior size and one senior used primarily for rugby and marked out for athletics in the spring/summer months.

Football pitches are accommodated on the area to the south east to the rear of the existing residential properties.

It is proposed that the pitches be located on the area currently occupied by the existing rugby pitches. This allows for the same uses to be accommodated in broadly the same locations at present without interference to other facilities. They are also set lower and further away from the main school buildings, but are still accessible from the car park, sports hall and other sports facilities when in use by the community.

The scheme is a joint project between Persimmon Homes, Harrogate Borough Council, Sports England, North Yorkshire County Council and Ripon Grammar School.

**For any more information please contact:
Mr A Hogg, Premises Manager by email:
hogga@ripogrammar.co.uk**

Art Trip to Cornwall

The lower 6th art students started the journey down to Cornwall on 13 October this year. After the nine-hour journey, everyone was relieved to arrive at the youth hostel and to a welcome dinner.

Our first activity was organised for that evening so, after everyone had eaten, we wrapped up and headed down into Penzance. Despite it being cold and dark, everyone enjoyed the peace and beauty that the harbour presented, which we all thought was magnified by the duskiness and gloom.

The following morning, to start our first full day in Cornwall, we visited Porthcurno beach. Luckily, it was a beautiful day and the sun was shining, which made the sea crystal clear and a vivid blue colour. After battling the wind for a few sketches of the rocks and sea, we travelled to St Ives. Here, we visited the

Barbara Hepworth museum, which is situated in Barbara Hepworth's old cottage and contains many of her monumental pieces. After a walk around St Ives, the day's outings were over. After dinner we had a short workshop on Terry Frost, another Cornish artist, looking at some of his work.

After another early morning, we found the weather on Saturday to be dreary and rainy.

Nonetheless, we headed out to Lanyon's Quoit, an old Pagan rock formation. After sketching this and doing a very different drawing in the form of a group sketch, we completed our final drawing at an old tin mine. By this time the rain had started, so it was a relief to go back to St Ives to look around some local galleries. These impressed everyone and inspired a lot of ideas for our own artwork which we will use during our AS studies. That evening, after dinner, we walked back into Penzance, to the cinema. This was a great way to end a very enjoyable time in Cornwall, which will influence and inspire our future studies in art.



Ella Durkin, L6A

Sport

We are so lucky at this school to have such amazing sports facilities such as the swimming pool, the astro turf, rugby pitch and netball courts, which enable students to take part in such a wide variety of sports.

Dedication on the part of the PE staff and students has led to some superb results – particularly this term. In hockey, the U16s have become County champions and have progressed through to the North East finals, where they triumphed once again. The U14s were also runners up at County level and narrowly lost two games in the North East and won one. Moreover the U12s and U13s took part in a national hockey tournament in early November.

Sporting triumph is not isolated to hockey however, with the U12 and U13s netball team going through to the third round of the National Schools' Tournament. Special mentions go to Isabella Binks, Harriet Strachan and Phoebe Ingram who have been selected for the netball area U14 County team. The U16s are a particularly talented squad who are also County Champions in netball, winning one County round and defeating all the opposition, including St Peter's and Harrogate Ladies' College. Congratulations to the squad of Katie Reed, Emily Reed, Amy Mackenzie, Molly Reed, Amy Crompton, Brooke Morrison, Sophie Richardson, Lucy Williams and Jess Merrin, scoring 101 goals in the process.

Boys' sports have also done exceedingly well, with the U15 rugby team going through to the second round of the National plate and the U14 are playing in the second round of the Yorkshire Cup. The U16 team beat Wickersley 22-13 in the third round of the Yorkshire Cup.

Cross Country has broken an RGS record as both the inter-girl and junior girls team have made it through to the National final, which we understand is the first time a team has progressed this far.

Amazing achievements across the spectrum stand testament to the commitment and dedication of each student to their sport and the time and energy that the PE teachers dedicate to clubs and training. With this in mind, huge congratulations are owed to all the teams and also good wishes for matches to come..

Katie Fraser, U6G

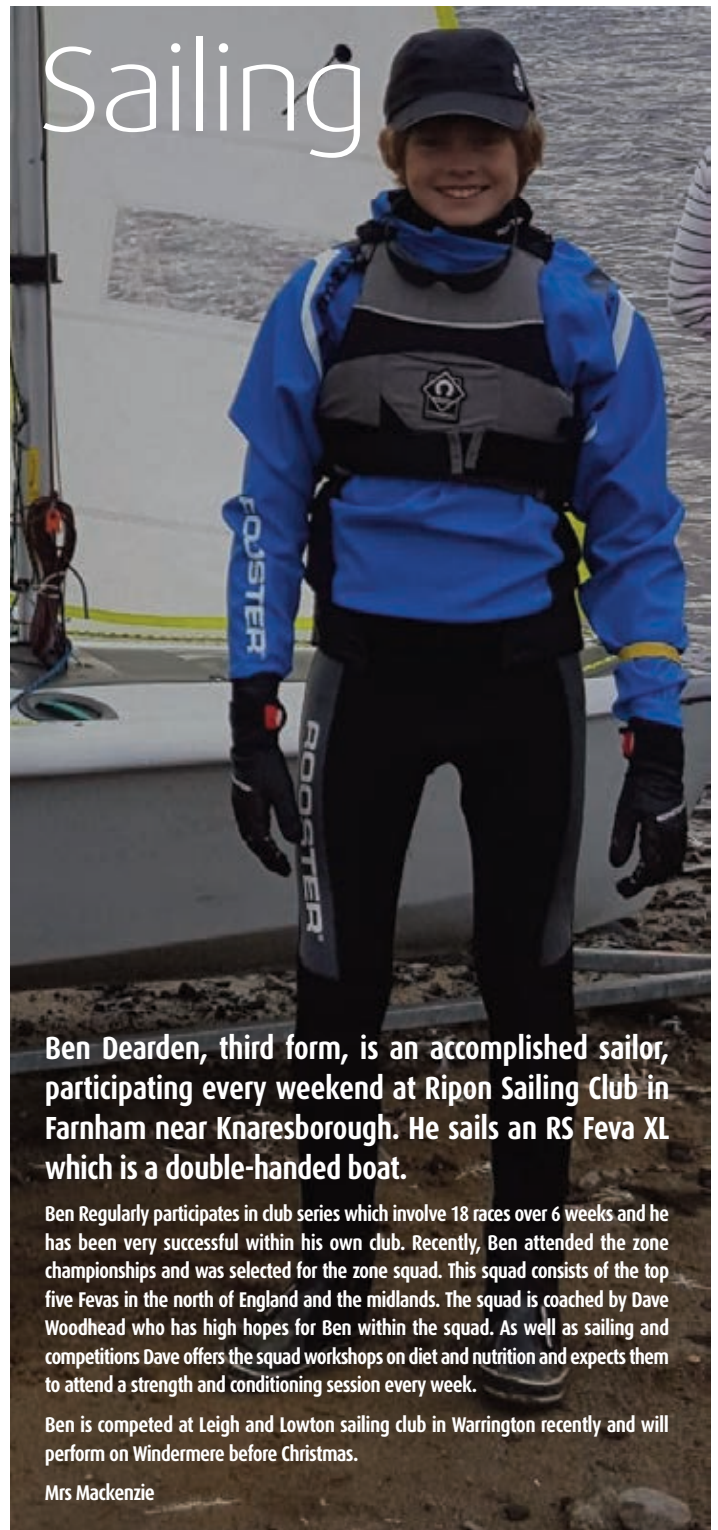
Samyuktha's Dance Achievements



Samyuktha Dasarathi, a third year student, manages to combine her school activities with an impressive and unusual hobby: Indian classical dance.



The specific dance form that Samyuktha practises is called 'Bharatanatyam' and involves years of training to master the complexities of the routines.



Ben Dearden, third form, is an accomplished sailor, participating every weekend at Ripon Sailing Club in Farnham near Knaresborough. He sails an RS Feva XL which is a double-handed boat.

Ben Regularly participates in club series which involve 18 races over 6 weeks and he has been very successful within his own club. Recently, Ben attended the zone championships and was selected for the zone squad. This squad consists of the top five Fevas in the north of England and the midlands. The squad is coached by Dave Woodhead who has high hopes for Ben within the squad. As well as sailing and competitions Dave offers the squad workshops on diet and nutrition and expects them to attend a strength and conditioning session every week.

Ben is competed at Leigh and Lowton sailing club in Warrington recently and will perform on Windermere before Christmas.

Mrs Mackenzie

She has been dancing since she was six and has made amazing progress since then; in July she performed her 'Arangetram', which literally means "ascending the stage" and represents a dancer's first performance of an entire traditional repertoire after the completion of their formal training.

Samyuktha explained it as marking the point "when the dancer reaches a stage where she is capable of dancing with musicians": Samyuktha's performance was held in Newcastle and involved the accompaniment of a band of traditional Indian performers. For someone as young as Samyuktha, this is an exceptional achievement and really reflects her hard work and dedication to dance.

Bharatanatyam dance is one of the oldest styles of classical dance in India. It requires intense concentration to master the complicated footwork and technical aspects of the dance, as well as acting and facial expressions to portray the emotional aspects: parts of the dance involve representing the lyrics of a song or portraying the characters of a story.

Alongside her own dance achievements, Samyuktha is involved in helping her dance teacher to teach younger students in Middlesbrough. She also enjoys music at school, through her music lessons and extra-curricular activities. In terms of the future, Samyuktha said "I'll definitely keep doing it, but just for fun": she is evidently a very talented young dancer who not only has achieved a substantial amount in this area but also, importantly, really enjoys the time she spends dancing.

Katie Veitch, U6B

Hockey

A school's senior hockey players' winning ways are inspiring younger pupils with two squads reaching regional finals.

The U16s team from Ripon Grammar School are continuing their record started as U14s by reaching their third North East semi-finals in the national hockey competition for schools.

A top two place in the North East semis in York was achieved and took them to the North finals, with the national finals beyond that. They are also in the national finals for indoor hockey.

Their coach and head of girls' PE at Ripon Grammar School, Siobhan Gilfillan, said: "This same group of players have qualified for the North finals for the past two years as U14s and with many playing a year young in last year's U16s, so we're hopeful of making it a hat-trick in next month's semis.

"Having played together for a few years now they know how to put in a really good team performance, led by captain Lucy Williams who, as an individual, is achieving great things as our highest performing U17 player and a member of the North of England high performance assessment camp (HiPAC)."

For the U14s squad, it is their first time in the North East semi-finals, a place secured in an unbeaten run in the county round until the final against St Peter's when they drew 0-0 but narrowly missed the win in penalty flicks.

"Although they were disappointed not to have won the North Yorkshire final, the girls can be very proud of their performance going unbeaten to that point, led by captain Penny Baker," said Miss Gilfillan.

"It's the first time this team have got this far so it's nice for them and will be great experience.

"Our students are always really keen and nearly half our new first form are coming to practice so we may have even more great players to choose from for future squads."



*Top - North East finalists: The U14s hockey team at Ripon Grammar School
Above - County champions: Ripon Grammar School's U16s hockey team,
with captain Lucy Williams (centre)*

Running at the speed of thought



When people ask me about my favourite sport and I answer orienteering, I often see a confused looking face as they ask me, "what is that?" For me, orienteering is a way of life; once you start, you never want to stop.

Orienteering is a competitive, international sport that combines racing with navigation. This means you have to run as fast as you can without getting lost in a wood, sand dunes, moorland or a city! To complete a course, you must navigate through diverse and unfamiliar terrain in order to visit control points in a specific sequence. Concentration is key, so if you 'zone out' for even a second it

could cost you a five minute mistake and set you back from other competitors. I started orienteering in my last year of primary school. I joined my local club (EBOR Orienteers) and started attending "club night" every Thursday after school, which taught me the basic skills needed to take part in an event. My first event was quite worrying and confusing as I was fighting my way through a windy moor, with just me, my map and a couple of sheep! However I gradually got used to reading the contours and features and soon I was participating in local competitions around the region. Soon the lead coach of the Yorkshire and Humberside Orienteering Squad approached my sister and I offering us a trial for the squad! After a few training sessions we were both accepted and soon they had us competing all over the country!

My first major competition was the Junior Inter-Regional Orienteering Championships (JIICs) where all the squads in the UK gather yearly and spend two days racing. In competitions like these you make many friends; despite the hundreds of miles between the teams we see each other almost fortnightly. Being selected for the England team to compete in the World Schools Orienteering Championships just over a year ago is my best Orienteering achievement. I had the opportunity to travel to Turkey for a week with four other British athletes of my age and coming home with a 3rd place trophy was amazing!

This experience led to other international events all of which were exciting and unique no matter where they were held. Recently the responsibility has fallen onto my sister and I to organise events so we've begun organising our own events for others to participate in. This involves getting planning permission from farmers, doing health and safety checks for younger competitors, and finally planning the courses themselves. This can be difficult because if you plan a course and set out the controls in the wrong place, there won't be anything to find! It is lots of fun and is really rewarding, especially after everyone has raced and the event has gone successfully!

If I had to describe Orienteering in three words, I'd say: adrenaline-pumping, adventurous and unique. If anyone is interested in trying out this amazing sport, check out the either the EBOR or CLARO website in order to contact your local club.

Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla, 4A



Netball

Regional Selection

Jess Merrin and Amy Mackenzie, both in the fifth form, have been selected for the Yorkshire Regional Academy. They attended a six-hour trial which was incredibly intense, involving fitness work, netball skills and drills and then game play.

The girls displayed an outstanding level of fitness, skill, resilience, determination and endurance and were both delighted when their names were read out as having been successful.

Jessica trains on a Monday night with Regional Academy 1 in Bradford for three hours. This involves an hour of strength and conditioning training followed by two hours of court time. Amy also trains in Bradford as part of the Regional Performance Academy and then does a further three hours in Sheffield on a Wednesday. The time commitment for both girls is huge.

During half term both girls were asked to play in the Tri-Region tournament between North East, North West and Yorkshire, Yorkshire have never won this competition but were successful against both the other regions and were crowned champions. Well done Jess and Amy!

New Netball Kit

The U12 netball squad have received a new strip courtesy of Mrs Eleanor Hartas from Ripon Uniform Shop.

She has provided the girls with a skirt and t shirt for their matches. Here they are pictured before their win against Dowdales School in the Lake District, sporting their fabulous new strip. Thank you Mrs Hartas.



Equestrian Success

Lucinda Sanderson

I firstly qualified to represent my yard at the National Riding Schools Championships in equitation (dressage, show jumping and stable management). At the Championships in Morten Morrell, Warwickshire, I competed as part of a team and as an individual. We won as a yard, and I was placed 7th individually in my age group, riding a horse called Bruce. I was then entered as an individual in the pure dressage championship class, riding a new horse called Grey. I was lucky enough to win, receiving free membership to the BHS and a training bursary.



Eddie Henderson

The event was held at Bishop Burton by The National Schools Equestrian Association and the class was an area qualifier for 'jumping with style' and the height 95cm. Eddie had a great round but unfortunately rolled a pole.

If anyone would be interested in joining the The National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA) and competing for the school please see Mrs Henson. There are regular competitions for show jumping, dressage and eventing; heights range from 70cm to 110cm and we can enter a team or individuals. The annual subscription is £20 and there are about four national qualifiers to attend in the year.



Lucinda in the prize giving with the sponsor, presenting the prizes.

Rock Climbing



I am an elite climber and train 6 days a week. I travel around the country training and competing. I am Yorkshire and Humberside champion 2016 and have achieved two 2nd places and a 3rd place at national competitions in the last 12 months.

Earlier this year I competed in the European youth colours competition in Austria which attracts the strongest young climbers from all over the world.

I was very pleased as I made it to the finals and finished 13th out of more than 60 in my age category.

I train at Leeds at least 3 nights a week and regularly at Sheffield and Manchester. In addition to this I have lots of exercises which I do most nights. I often do 150 pull-ups and around 200 press-ups in addition to other exercises in one evening. It is important for me to be organised to get all my homework done around my many hours of training!

I have recently been invited to attend a British Team development Squad selection day in December, from where I will hopefully be selected to represent my country.

Marijke Booth, 3C

sky SPORTS

Living for Sport

As part of the Sky Sports Living for Sport project in which Ripon Grammar School participates every year, we were allocated a visit by one of Sky Sports Sporting Champions. Our athlete mentor was Rachael Mackenzie.

Rachael is a world champion Thai Kick Boxer. Two years ago, following a knee injury, she took up boxing at Bantam weight. She is now the British champion at this weight. She delivered a Boxercise fitness circuit to Year 11 girls and then signed autographs and posed for photographs with her championship belt.

Later that evening she attended a swimming session where she observed the sports leaders delivering a lesson to primary aged children. As part of her next visit Rachael will address Sixth form students on the Six Keys to Success, which are;

1. Mental toughness
2. Hunger to achieve
3. People skills
4. Sports and life knowledge
5. Breaking barriers
6. Planning for success

The six keys to success are designed to help young people develop valuable life skills that will help them in and outside of school, now and into the future.

Welcome... to our new staff & gap students

Miss Alejandra Ortiz (Ecuadorian Gap Student)

Every year, Ripon Grammar School organises for a student from another country, who is taking a gap year, to work as a teaching assistant in the language department. Alejandra Ortiz has come from Cuenca in Ecuador as part of a gap year programme called 'Latitude'. She is helping during Spanish lessons as well as meeting with sixth form students out of lessons to work on their speaking skills. Myself and the Upper Sixth class have asked Alejandra a few questions; here is what we have found out:



- Alejandra has two brothers and a dog, called Kira.
- She likes England so far; it is hotter than she expected (please note, it was a lot warmer when we interviewed her!). She is excited to see snow for the first time.
- In terms of hobbies she likes to read and travel, as well as playing the guitar and watching horror films.
- Next year, Alejandra hopes to study either art or architecture at university back home in Ecuador
- She had never eaten Yorkshire puddings or a full English breakfast until she came to Ripon!

We have enjoyed getting to know Alejandra in our lessons, and we hope that her time at Ripon Grammar School will be an extremely enjoyable one.

Monty Merchie, U6E

Mr A MacMillan (Teacher of RE)

I teach RE and classics at Ripon Grammar School. I am from Northumberland and went to University in Swansea – a long National Express trip from home! At University I studied Philosophy and American Studies, studying for a year in humid Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Whilst there I met my wife, so when I graduated I went back out to the USA and lived there for 7 years. My wife is from the Seattle area in Washington State, in the Pacific Northwest. In my view it is one of the most beautiful parts of the United States, with mountains and the ocean.

I have an interest in documentary films, so gained a job in a local TV station to develop my production skills. I worked on children's TV show, drove a news satellite truck, and eventually gained a position as a news video editor. I did this for several years, but ultimately found it wasn't the path for me, so began to explore the possibility of teaching. This led me to volunteer in an after school programme for the children of recent immigrants. I found I enjoyed my time there far more than the TV work, so made the decision to leave TV news and gain my teaching qualification. We moved to Spain for a year where I taught ESL in Cataluña, before moving back to northern England where I gained my PGCE in RE from York St John University.



My second teaching placement was at Thirsk, where I was offered a job and remained there for 14 years. RE was a very popular and successful subject at Thirsk, at both GCSE and Alevel, and I look forward to supporting the growth of the subject and improving the excellent results of the department here at Ripon Grammar School.

Miss Jane Joos (German Gap Student)

I come from South Germany and am spending my gap year working with students in the Third Form upwards, mostly helping them to prepare for their GCSE and AS level examinations. I also work in the girls' boarding house, which is a pleasure. I really enjoy spending time with the students and helping them whenever I can. My favourite subject has always been PE, so I also help to supervise sports fixtures. My favourite sport is basketball, and I also like playing the guitar and listening to music. Although Ripon is really small (still much bigger than my hometown!), I think it's very pretty and the people here are lovely.



Mr O Astley (Part-time Teacher of German)

Originally from Worcestershire, I have spent the last ten years working as a translator and teacher of English in various parts of Germany, Austria, Britain and Spain. I have also taught Big History, tracing the origins of human existence back to the Big Bang. Prior to this, I studied at UCL and the University of Warwick, specialising in translation and creative writing. My first half term at RGS has been an enjoyable experience, both with my classes and with the students in boarding. Outside of school, I enjoy travelling, swimming and jogging as well as playing the violin and piano.



Mr J Harding (Teacher of PE)

I teach PE and a small amount of Geography, having previously been a PE teacher at Egglecliffe School in Stockton. This is my third year of teaching. In my spare time I enjoy playing cricket at Durham City Cricket Club as an opening batsman and pace bowler. In the winter, I like to spectate at Durham City Rugby Club, as I no longer play any rugby.



Mrs S McIntyre (School Health Worker)

I was appointed School Health Worker in the summer and started working at Ripon Grammar School in September. I have worked in a similar role for the past 11 years in local high schools and recently a large primary school.

I am originally from Southampton but have been away from Hampshire since 1990 when I moved to Scotland, then to Yorkshire in 1999. I am married to Stuart and have 4 children and 4 step children; this summer was our last exam results day- we have had at least one a year since 2009! Before starting a family I worked in the NHS at Southampton General Hospital and Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow.



I am a football fan and enjoy watching live matches. I have a small dog, Ruby, who is forever young. A walk with Ruby is a great way to unwind and blow the cobwebs away.

Mlle Solène Demeyer

(Foreign Language Assistant)

Hailing from the Poitou-Charentes region in the west of France, Mlle Demeyer, age 21, is our French Assistant who will be helping our French students with their study of her language. I asked her some questions about why she decided to come to the UK.

Since when have you been interested in English and why?

"I've been interested in English since I was sixteen. Because my teacher was very good, I was good at it in school. Then I started to study English at university and I really liked it. When I was eighteen, I started to work as an au pair. I arrived in England in June 2014 for the first time ever. I loved England so much that I wanted to come back again and again. I really like it now."

Have you noticed any differences between French people and English people?

"I think English people are more open-minded than French, which is very good. When you are in England you can talk with people and they are very nice to you. In France, it's harder to talk to a French person. They might look at you weirdly, thinking 'why are you talking to me!' It's also easier to get a job in England. Also, English people don't get annoyed when I speak with my French accent; in France some people just give up when a foreign person is talking."

Have you found that any of the stereotypes of English people are true?

"How you drink a lot of tea, that's very true - with milk! Not really but in France we think that your trains and buses are always on time, but that's not very true. It's true that you queue to wait, like on the stairs you won't rush, but French people do push each other, so, some are true. The fish and chips one is also true."

What's your hometown like?

"I was born in Royan, by the sea. It's quite new because it was destroyed in the Second World War, so it's a very new city. It's very nice because of the sea and that's why my family like it. It's quite small and the houses are white; it's quite typical."

How does England compare to France?

"I would say the landscape is different. In England it's more green. Where I live in France it's very dry, especially after the summer because it doesn't rain that much. You really take care of your parks and your lawns, it's very pretty! Your houses are usually red brick, where in France you wouldn't have that very much, except for in the north of France...we were inspired by England! But where I live it's just big houses, all white, or other types of stone."

How do you find the weather in the north of England?

"I'm not used to seeing the snow! I'm very happy to see it [today]. I must say I thought it would be worse as it hasn't rained that much since I arrived! We have similar weather in France actually, like today it's snowing here, and it was snowing in Paris. It's just colder in England. Oh, but the worst thing is, it starts getting dark at four o'clock, then at five it's dark! I live in the West, so we have the sun even longer, until six o'clock, or six-thirty."

How important do you think the study of foreign languages is?

"I think it's very important, because it makes you more open-minded. It's great to be able to speak two languages because, at the same time you discover your own language as well. It's interesting when you see the same word in two languages; I wonder who stole it from who! I really like English, because the grammar is different from French, but I also really like Italian because it has quite a lot of the same grammar. Also, you can travel more. It's easier for you because you're English and you speak English. English is spoken in a lot of places, but if a French person doesn't learn English, when they come to England no one can understand them. We tend to learn Spanish in France because it's a little easier for us. But I would say foreign languages are very important. They're good for your brain too, good exercise, remembering all the vocabulary and all the constructions of the sentence and how to make it."



First Impressions...

from a first year perspective

Starting at a new school can often be daunting and nerve-wracking.

However, I believe Ripon Grammar prides itself on making the transition as smooth and stress-free as possible. As a form prefect, I have had the opportunity to spend time with first-year students, getting a unique insight into their first half term at school. At the start of the year, students were most looking forward to the wide variety of sports Ripon Grammar provides, making new friends, being challenged with new subjects and having a greater degree of freedom than they did at primary school. Naturally, many pupils were nervous, in particular about getting lost, not making

friends or fitting in, getting too much homework and becoming disorganised. Yet, after a half term, the students are enjoying making new friends, joining new clubs such as Greenpower club, sports clubs including running, netball, rock climbing and rugby, science club, musicality and a number of bands and orchestras (to name just a few). The students in the first year have settled well into the Ripon Grammar atmosphere, with the only grumbles being about homework, and, as one of the first years said, "picking what to have for lunch" is particularly challenging!

Poppy Dunstan, U6E



Photo Club



Erika Phillips



Eloise Forsyth

This new term has welcomed lots of new members to photo club. We have already been developing our skills set, focusing on light and shadow and went on a trip Brimham Rocks to try them out.

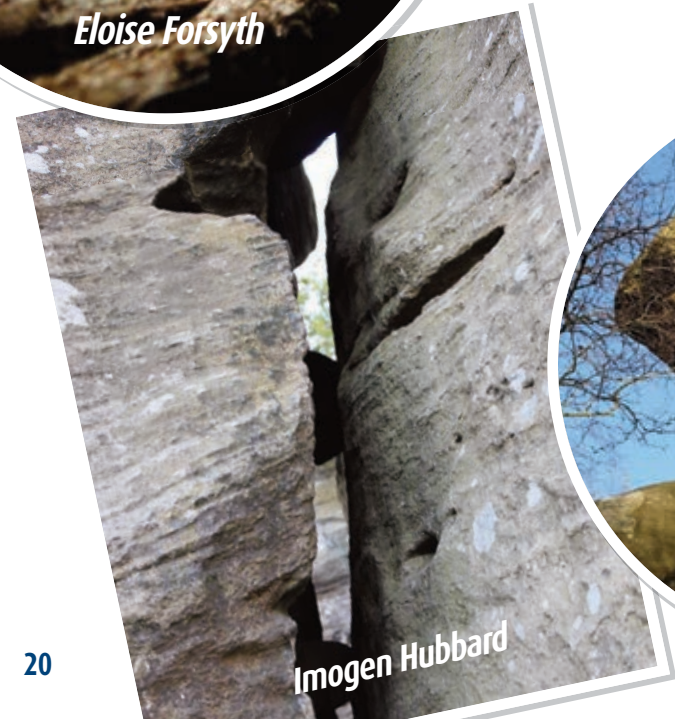
Here are some of the images from that trip that we have submitted to the 'Your Yorkshire' Competition run by the 'Dalesman' magazine.

We have also been busy planning some photo shoots for the Royal Horticultural Society competition in February.

Eloise Forsyth, one of our current members was selected to be a finalist in the Woodlands photographic competition and her image was on display at the Yorkshire Show in July; it is shown on the left.

Photo club has also been granted three new cameras from the Parents' Association. We would like to thank them for this and we can't wait to try them out!

Mrs Garmory



Imogen Hubbard



Rebecca Purll

Editorial Team

Many thanks to the editorial team who have worked so hard and written articles for the last two editions of the RGS News. They are:

- Poppy Dunstan**
- Katie Fraser**
- Katie Veitch**
- Georgie Wardall**
- Lucy Wicks**

Thanks also to all the members of staff who provide articles to inform you of our students' superb achievements; we hope you have enjoyed reading them.

Mrs Patricia Hargraves, RGS News Editor