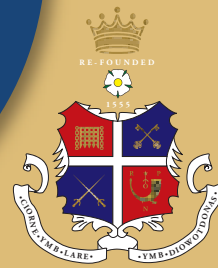


RGSnnews

Issue 29 Spring 2011



BOOK WEEK

Author steals the Show

AMP AWARDS

School band success

CAREERS ADVICE

Life beyond Ripon Grammar School

Photograph by Mr B Hampshire



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Spring edition of the RGS News which will hopefully coincide with some pleasant weather. I am sure you are looking forward to a good break after a long Spring term – longer than usual given the lateness of Easter this year. You are of course aware of the number of Bank Holidays that we have at the beginning of next term which will lead to a number of incomplete weeks.

The students are busily preparing for examinations which start very soon next term. I am sure we will all wish them well for their forthcoming challenges. The Upper Sixth have received good news regarding their UCAS offers although a number are still waiting to hear from the universities of their choice. Medicine in particular has been challenging this year with a large number of our students wanting to apply which is reflected in a significant increase nationally as well.

I am very grateful to the editors, Amy Ellerker, Stephanie White and Lucinda Redfearn for ably assisting the production of this edition. They have done extremely well and have gone about their task very diligently.

I very much enjoyed the 'Return to the Forbidden Planet' production and congratulations to Miss Jackson for overseeing this musical.

Over £1,400 was raised from the Non-Uniform Day on 17 March which will assist with the re-cycling project as well as a contribution being made to the Japanese earthquake appeal following a suggestion by a number of students.

The Astroturf is virtually completed and is ready to be used. There is little new to update you regarding the music block other than to confirm that the site in front of the sixth form block is fine to build on. The car-park project involves extending the car parking in front of the school. Planning permission has been applied for and we intend to go out to tender in May. Work will be undertaken over the summer holiday and the extension of the car park will be ready for September.

I was delighted to hear that Daniel Hasson, Stephen Laws and Cameron McCormack have been awarded Arkwright scholarships for 2011. This is an excellent achievement for the students in what is a very competitive process.

I am very much looking forward to the summer term where there will be a number of events which I hope you will be able to attend. Amongst these are the junior production of The Jungle Book, sports day and lower-school prizegiving where the guest speaker is Miss Gennevie Barr.

I would like to wish you and your family a very enjoyable Easter and I look forward to seeing you next term.

M L Pearman (Headmaster)

ICT NEWS

Over the past year or so there have been several ICT developments at RGS. The capacity of two ICT suites has been increased from sixteen to thirty-two computers, allowing full-class use of the rooms. This now gives us three ICT suites able to take the maximum class size.

Students also now have the use of a refurbished computer room in the library after eleven new computers were installed. Our wireless coverage also continues to be expanded with the new joint sixth-form block, science block, library and staff room all now having wireless connectivity for laptops and other devices. As readers may be aware, our management information system (Serco) which holds all the students' information is going to be rolled out to parents to allow access to be gained from home. This will allow parents to view their child's attendance data, timetable, reports and other information.

The school website has also had some new features added. These include new links on the front page for home access to the school's network (Easylink), a link to the parent-pay website and prospectus downloads. A new search feature has also been added to allow you to find articles more easily. The new promotional DVD can also now be viewed on the front page of the website.

The website continues to be a vital tool for communicating with parents, so please take time to have a look whenever you can.

www.ripongrammar.co.uk

Mr B Hampshire, Systems Manager



Elaine Haggerty has received her European Computer Driving Licence after participating in a parents' ECDL course at RGS. Many congratulations on all your hard work Mrs Haggerty!

ECDL's certification programmes have been delivered to over 11 million people worldwide over the last decade and it is now an internationally recognised accreditation. The courses are targeted at individuals who aim to improve their ICT proficiency and help enable them to gain access to information more readily and efficiently.

If you are interested in developing your ICT skills and gain a widely respected qualification, ECDL sessions are held at Ripon Grammar School on a Wednesday evening from 4- 5.30pm. If you would like further information on the classes then please contact Mr Walker of the ICT department at walkerb@ripongrammar.co.uk

Stephanie White L6C

SCHOOL LEADERS' LUNCH

Having received a mysterious invitation to a leaders' lunch hosted by Julian Smith, the MP for the Ripon and Skipton constituency, Mr Pearman, Tom York and I headed to Skipton on Friday 28th January. This was the first time Mr Smith had put on the event so we weren't quite sure what to expect. Despite some of our differences in political views with Mr Smith, it was very interesting to meet him. Throughout the meal Mr Smith came to talk to us about issues in which we, as young people, were interested. We discussed most things from tuition fees to EMA payments. It was clearly important to Mr Smith that he could represent our views at Westminster.

The lunch was held at Craven College, where the catering students were given the opportunity to cook for representatives from a range of organisations. They produced a delicious three-course meal that would beat a school lunch any day!

I would hope that this event becomes an annual event as it was a great way for us to voice our views and the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Freyja Mortimer U6



LOWER-SIXTH FORM VISIT TO CHESTER ZOO

Every year the lower-sixth biologists have the opportunity to visit Chester Zoo and this year it was our turn. So, early one March morning, we set off on the two and a half hour journey to Chester; the level of excitement on the bus was similar to that of primary school children.

We reached Chester Zoo, and after the inevitable trip to the toilets for the majority of the group, we had a whistle-stop tour of the zoo to reach the education centre where we were to attend our first lecture on classification. We learned how to classify organisms with their scientific names, and ended the lecture by classifying live, *Gromphadorhina portentosa*, more commonly known as the Madagascar hissing cockroach. Our second lecture was on evolution; we looked at the theories of famous scientists such as Lamarck and Darwin which was a natural development from the classification lecture in the morning.

As well as the two lectures during the day, we also had some free time to look around the zoo for ourselves; we saw a wonderful array of animals, both the expected ones and some more rare species. My personal favourite was the 'Forest Fruit Bat'. From the point of entry it was obvious that the exhibit was that bit different, the room was pitch dark apart from a dim light in the corner, and we were assured by the zookeeper 'they won't fly into you', which we later found was not completely true, but it did convince us to keep walking! The bats were mesmerising as they flew deftly from one place to another; an amazing feat as they only use sonar.

Many of the big cats prowled the perimeters of the enclosures, although the cheetah kept an eye on everything, sitting high up, calling every so often to his friend in the enclosure next door.



The lion seemed happiest to just laze around, rolling over every now and then, or standing up for a stretch before lying back down.

We entered the reptile exhibit at the start of feeding time, which caused great commotion in the group as we saw dead mice devoured whole by snakes and lizards alike; however macabre this picture may seem, it was in fact fascinating to see. After learning about the two species of orangutan in the evolution lecture, it was useful to see the differences in colour and cheek pads between the two species in real life. There were many other primates at the zoo including the closest of our relatives, the chimpanzee.

At the end, there was a chance to buy soft toys, or other equally sophisticated paraphernalia, in the gift shop, making it a truly enjoyable trip for everyone.

Fionnuala Morris, L6B

2010 RGS NEWS CLASSICS & LATIN TRIP

On Tuesday, 25th January the members of the Classics department in the fifth year had the opportunity to visit the British Museum in London, using the time to view the unique vases that are on display there.

The long arduous journey down on the train seemed well worth it after only half an hour in the museum as the detail of the vases eclipsed anything imagined when viewed from the textbook. The detail of the pots is much more vivid in real life, and I highly recommend a visit to the museum to see not only those vases but also to see the other exhibits there.



After our time analysing the vases, which will prove especially useful for the classics students' impending coursework, we moved on to looking at the Elgin Marbles, sculptures off the great Parthenon in Athens. The marbles really are a wonder to behold considering they were made several thousand years ago, as they allow us to see the Greeks' interpretation of the myths they depict and it gives us an insight into their way of storytelling as we analyse ancient scripts.

Once finished with the Elgin Marbles we were afforded some free time to browse the fascinating museum ourselves, and we could see great exhibits such as the Ancient Egyptian mummies or the sculptured portraits of Roman Emperors. The British Museum has a vast array of exhibits, with far too many to see in the small amount of time we had there, and we would definitely like to return in the future and see more of what is on offer.

However, the day was not all ancient history, as before another fatiguing journey home, we visited the Fortune Theatre to see the excellent horror play 'Woman in Black'. Even though I personally am not accustomed to visiting theatres and watching plays, I found the play enthralling and quite scary, and some of our group did scream. All of us on the trip found the play exciting and I think none of us would refuse the chance of going again.

Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable trip which, having spoken to everyone involved, I would describe it as a very successful and repeatable experience.

Edward Riley and Ellie Duffield, Upper Sixth

LEEDS CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION LATIN READING COMPETITION

In March, four pupils from the fourth and fifth year were brave enough to represent the school in this annual Latin reading contest. While competition was stiff (with at least two who appeared to be native Romans among the competitors) and no prizes were won, all four pupils performed to a very high standard, reading with precision, expression and some memorable dramatic touches!



Megan Oakeley, Hugh McHale-Maughan, Hannah Hickingbotham, Rowan Swiers

RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL HOUSE SYSTEM

House sport and house drama have always been fiercely contested at RGS, but never more so than this year. With Miss Raymer's revamp of the house system, not only is there a much more diverse range of competitions to get involved in, but every contest is worth house points which then count towards the grand total for each house. At the end of the year, the victorious house will be awarded the House Cup.

The increased competitiveness, and friendly rivalry, between the houses has allowed students to form a greater allegiance to their house, meet people outside their own year group and even have a go at things they might not otherwise have tried. Whilst the more traditional competitions such as hockey and swimming have remained, many new activities like Masterchef, University Challenge and engineering have been added. There really is something for everyone.

At the current time of writing, the mighty Porteus are leading the way with 2018 points but School, Hutton and DeGrey are all close behind.

There has never been a better time to get involved and help your house be in first place at the end of the year.

Katie Wade, U6A

TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH FORTHCOMING COMPETITIONS AND CHECK OUT RESULTS FROM ALL HOUSE ACTIVITIES, PLEASE SEE THE SCHOOL WEBSITE UNDER 'HOUSE SYSTEM'.

Parents' Association

NEWS FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The new year has been an excellent one for the Parents' Association, with Burns' Night in January, raising in the region of £3,200.00. In particular, thanks go to Mrs Pearman who organised the event and to all of the committee who worked so hard prior to, and during, the event. We are grateful for the generosity of Barclays Bank, which donated £750.00 and the raffle tickets added to the monies made on the evening itself.

The 'Raw Talent' Art exhibition and Tapas evening, kindly sponsored by Lockwoods Restaurant in Ripon, ran over the weekend of 1st, 2nd & 3rd April 2011. The event, which was organised by Alison Herbert, provided opportunities not just for art students from Ripon Grammar School, but also for artists from the across the county to display and sell their work. It is fair to say that the event was probably one of our most ambitious, and different, activities and as soon as I am able to, I will let parents know how much money it raised.

The success of the Parents' Association cannot be accredited to one person, but to the collective efforts of so many. However, I would like to thank Ruth Savage who seems to have an endless list of contacts, helping to publicise events and acquire so many interesting prizes for raffles. Ruth has secured raffle prizes for our summer-term draw, including a cookery lesson with a top chef, First Class train tickets to London, Sea Fishing, Fish Pedicure, festival tickets and other such prizes. So please look out for these tickets when they are on sale next term. As ever we are looking for new members to join us so if you are interested in joining the Parents' Association, please contact me through the school office. May I thank all of you who help support the events we organise and I look forward to our continued success.

With regards

Jonathan Tearle

Chairman, Ripon Grammar School Parents' Association

AQA BACCALAUREATE

With the completion of all projects in recent weeks, Ripon Grammar School has just submitted the first ever group of AQA Baccalaureate Extended Project Qualifications (EPQ) from the sixth-form. The EPQ was very popular, with many students applying for a limited number of places at the end of the last academic year. Those who were selected have investigated a wide range of topics including: Tim Burton's films, the detrimental effects of thalidomide, the relationship between law and morality, a study to optimise the friction of rubber and an analysis of the literature of the Brontë sisters.

Over the course of seven months, students created a production log, outlining the planning, research and development stages of the EPQ, a 5000 word essay and twenty minute presentation on their chosen topic. Although largely self-directed and motivated, each student was thankful for the one-to-one guidance they received from a number of teachers who shared similar interests. Each student managed time effectively, striking a balance between the EPQ and A2-level study. Students have also demonstrated the essential and transferable skills of initiative, reflection and commitment in their choice and design of each project.

In this ever competitive higher-education climate, the EPQ has given students an 'edge' over their fellow applicants by providing evidence of the skills looked for by universities. Therefore, speaking on behalf of the 2010-11 AQA Baccalaureate, we would both recommend the EPQ unreservedly as a fantastic opportunity to expand your knowledge and interest in an area of your choice.

Racheal & Natalie Muldoon

SCHOOL COUNCIL: RECYCLING

The spring term has been an exciting one for the School Council in all areas, but perhaps most particularly with regard to recycling. Acting upon a general feeling from the student body, which has been strongly felt by the councillors, the Council have made environmental issues a priority this year.

Biffa

One key issue was felt to be the large volume of waste that the school produces which goes into landfill. Clearly, it is imperative that the school acts to amend this problem, not only to deal with its own waste issues, but also to provide an example to the student body. After extensive research, and discussion with the recycling sub-committee, the council as a whole was asked to consider a number of options at its January meeting, for the potential implementation of a recycling process within the school; these included abandonment of the scheme, utilising the admittedly rather limited NYCC scheme, and continuing to peruse and pursue other options.

The Council decided to opt for a scheme run by Biffa, a company which specialises in waste management and solutions, known as the 'Red Bin Scheme'. This is an all inclusive package that would dramatically reduce the amount of non-recycled waste we produce (Biffa believe that they could recycle 78% of the waste we currently dispose of in a non-environmentally friendly manner) over a very short time scale. Jack Lale and Hugh McHale-Maughan subsequently attended a Senior Leadership Team meeting to discuss the scheme, with particular regard to the financial implications and change in culture that it would entail. They also attended a meeting with Biffa in conjunction with Mr Hanson, the premises manager. Following this, it seems very likely that the school will implement the scheme in the near future, so we can look forward with optimism to a more waste free Ripon Grammar School.

Stephanie White L6C

RIDING CLUB

Ripon Grammar School is now an official member of the National Schools' Equestrian Association. To date we have entered three NSEA competitions including show-jumping, dressage and cross-country and have achieved second place in each competition. We are very

fortunate in having an Equestrian Team Manager, Mrs Craggs (the mother of Huguette in the fifth form) who has organised riding club training sessions at Northallerton Equestrian Centre.

The NSEA competitions recommence in April with Dressage at Queen Ethelburga's and a one day event at Northallerton Equestrian Centre in May. We are also organising a pleasure ride at Escrick Park later this year. If you are interested in hearing more about Ripon Grammar Riding Club please contact Miss Murray or Mrs Henson. All new members are most welcome.

CHALLENGE MET



For the last three months, sixth-form students at RGS have been working with The Prince's Trust to use their enterprise skills to meet the challenge of raising funds for the charity.

With a time limit of twelve weeks the RGS team, Catalyst Inc., organised the sale of 'house' hoodies, glowsticks and the re-cycling of over forty old mobile phones. In total, their efforts raised over £1100 which was presented to the charity at a ceremony on 7th March.

In addition to raising money, the team also took part in a Dragon's Den style presentation evening at The Mount School, York. Here, individual members of the team explained how they had run their mini business to secure a profit with the help of business mentor, Mr Alan Marshall.

Impressing the judges with their account of the highs and lows of the challenge, including overcoming the bad weather in December to ensure that their customers received their hoodies in time for Christmas, Catalyst Inc. were delighted to be declared the North Yorkshire winners of the enterprise challenge.

Mrs Southwell

ENTERPRISE DAY!

Every year since we started Ripon Grammar, there has been an enterprise day focusing on a recent event or issue, and this year was no different. One day in summer, bright and early, the fourth years were gathered in the hall and briefed on our project. Compared to the last three enterprise days, this was a single-day project, and we were all a bit nervous as to how we were going to complete the task before three o'clock, to allow an hour for presentations.

This year's task was linked to the looming 2012 Olympics. The year group was divided into twelve groups of about ten students, and then given a sport. The task was to design a building where your sport could be held, taking into account the facilities needed and the surrounding area. For some, this meant actually having to carry out research into the event first! Events varied from the well-known track events to more unusual events such as wrestling and volleyball.

After a quick briefing from the guest co-ordinators, work got under way. Project managers were elected; they then shared jobs between the rest of the group. Most teams split their time between working as a group on the actual presentation, and researching and developing the model building.

The day was stressful for many, as we improved our time management and teamwork skills. The models were very inspiring and they were a testament to the day's hard work.

Grace Ireland & Hannah Hickingbotham, 5B

MOCK TRIAL

Early on a Saturday morning last November, Mrs Southwell accompanied us – a team of bleary-eyed teenagers – to Leeds Combined Court for the annual Regional Mock Trial competition. Last year we, unfortunately, missed out on the regional heats, and this year we were very excited to get a chance to compete.

The aim of the trial is to give students who are interested in law and the judicial system a chance to experience a very authentic mock-up of real court proceedings. From the minute we stepped into the building, it was as if we were in the real thing: from the true-to-life costumes people were wearing (including full police officers outfits and 'barristers' wearing gowns and wigs) to the fact that real judges were presiding over and, eventually, scoring the cases.

After the first three cases, we had won two and narrowly lost a third, and this was enough to allow us to compete in the final case. After a very hard-fought contest, we were narrowly beaten to the top spot, but ended what had, overall, been a very successful day, in second place.

It was a fantastic opportunity as well as being a lot of fun, and anyone who is interested in the law should definitely take up this chance in the future.

Edward Riley, U6C

FAIR TRADE?

The RGS Young Enterprise team, Gluttons for Buttons, took part in the regional trade fair on Saturday 5th February at the Designer Outlet, York.

As one of ten Young Enterprise companies from Yorkshire and the Humber region, Gluttons for Buttons set up their stall selling a range of handmade jewellery made from re-using buttons, lego and scrabble tiles.

The Young Enterprise stalls proved quite an attraction to the passing shoppers. Many stopped to chat to the stallholders, asking about the products on sale and taking the opportunity to buy a range of unique goods such as lego earrings and Yorkshire Born 'N Bred wristbands.

No one knew how well the day would go but it is pleasing to report that sales at Gluttons for Buttons were good.

The team are now concentrating on making and selling more jewellery before winding up the business in April and taking their trade stall to the North Yorkshire Young Enterprise Adjudications in May.





AMP AWARDS 2011

The AMP Awards Music and Enterprise competition, which was held on 17 February, involved the collaboration of students and staff from St Aidan's High School, the Forest School, King James's School, St John Fisher Catholic High School, Boroughbridge High School, Harrogate Grammar and Ripon Grammar School.

Six of the schools formed a business team, and RGS' team comprised of members of the Lower Sixth who volunteered to help. Each school's business team was allocated a section and our team was given the PR and graphics sections. The first job for the team was to decide on a team name, which took a surprisingly long time to get all the members of the team to agree on! In the end "White Noise" was chosen. Next the team began designing the graphics for the poster which would be used to promote the AMP Awards and would be displayed in every participating school around Harrogate and district. The final design was based on the concept of the AMP Awards being a "battle of the bands", and so the poster contained the image of a person's fist raised, with a number of "bands" round their arm, each bearing the name of the bands entered into the competition.



To decide the band which would represent RGS at the AMP Awards, members of the team organised and promoted a Battle of the Bands competition, the winner of which would go through to the AMP Awards. The event was a definite success, with a good audience turnout, great performances by the bands, and the popular "text wall" where each member of the audience could send one text with their favourite band's name to, and the winner was the band with the most text votes. The winning band was Summer City; made up of Ben Adams, Kit Parker and Ben Reynard. In the month leading up to the AMP Awards the business team was busy producing a promotional video of the band, starting a viral campaign which promoted the event on over fifteen different event websites, putting up the posters, and selling tickets for the event. By taking part we all gained invaluable experience of business skills and enterprise ideas, and I would definitely recommend it in future to any students interested in business or the music industry.

Well done to Summer City from RGS who won the overall competition, the first Ripon band to win the AMP Awards - many congratulations to them! They have won a main stage slot at the well renowned Culture Shock Festival in the summer amongst other well deserved prizes! (see separate report from Kit Parker on their success)

Isobel Shaw, L6C

On December 15th the annual Ripon Grammar School 'battle of the bands' took place in which six bands competed for a place in the regional competition, The Amp Awards. The Amp Awards is a music and enterprise contest where Ripon Grammar School, St. Aidan's, King James's School, St John Fisher, Harrogate Grammar and Boroughbridge High School took part. Winners of Ripon Grammar School's battle of the bands were pop-punk trio Summer City. Members include: Ben Adams, Kit Parker and Ben Reynard. "We were so thrilled to get through the first school heat, it was such a great surprise!" said by Ben Adams, guitar and vocals.

**"DRUMMER BEN REYNARD,
WHOSE PERFORMANCE WAS
RATED THE BEST INSTRUMENTAL
OF THE FINAL BY JUDGES"**

Having been a band for three years, Summer City have slowly managed to make a name for themselves throughout the county. Having supported Futures, who have recently been signed to Mercury Records and playing large scale local gigs, they have become renowned for their energetic live shows, where anything can happen.

After being put through to the regional final, Summer City began to rehearse their live set of two songs to perform for The Royal Hall in Harrogate. There was a strong turnout and excitement took over as they sat backstage watching the crowds begin to fill the seats.

To give their live performance that extra "buzz" the band decided to hire in keyboard extraordinaire Alasdair Simpson whose fast fingers brought their live set to a whole new level. "We had recently been recording loads of new demos, and had written a synth part in every song, so it only felt right to seek Alasdair's help to give us that sound we were looking for" said Ben Reynard, drummer. As Summer City made their way onto the largest stage they had ever performed on, tension was in the air as they were the first band to play of the night. "playing first is always a hard job, as you haven't seen what your up against, the only thing you can do is play your heart out" the band motto "just go mental" was probably the most used phrase by the band backstage, and it definitely paid off.

The first track Summer City played was an original "3rd Time Lucky" with Power-pop synth hooks and driving guitar. This definitely got the crowd going with its catchy vocal melody and Ben Reynard giving his best impression of "Animal". Second by the band was another original, an epic ballad called "Stories", which took everyone by surprise. With tribal like drums and slow string harmonies it brought dead silence within the room.

**"LIKE BLINK 182'S OR
GREENDAY'S GRANDSONS."**

THE
amp
awards



Having completely blown away the four professional judges and the audience Summer City made their way off stage to await the verdict. "We were really happy with the way we played, we gave it our all and we just hoped we'd done enough" said Kit Parker, bass guitar.

**"SUMMER CITY'S RAW
PERFORMANCE HAD A
PROFOUND EFFECT ON ME"**

Once all the other bands had performed, it was crunch time. All bands were told to gather backstage and had to listen tentatively to what was being said by the compère onstage. "We didn't have a clue what to expect, all the other bands were so good, so we knew it would be a close one" said Ben Adams.

The band gathered in a circle as the results were announced. "I'm not going to lie, we were so nervous, we'd put in so much effort and just hoped that it would all pay off". Third and second place had been awarded with no mention of Summer City. "We thought it was all over. Another band, Just Send Roses, who we thought were the strongest on the night and still hadn't been mentioned either, so we were accepting the loss" but then out of no where through the PA came "and the winners off 2011 are.....SUMMER CITY!!", "we were gob-smacked, and just ran, skipped and rolled onto the stage to meet the roaring crowd."

**"COCKIEST OF THE LOT WERE THE
EVENTUAL WINNERS, SUMMER CITY"**

Summer City were then asked to perform an encore, where they decided to play their extremely popular cover of "Teenage Dream" by Katy Perry.

Their success earned them a main-stage slot at CultureShock festival and Fringe festival. They also gained £350 of vouchers to go towards the school's music fund.

Check out the bands music and see what they're up to at:

www.reverbNation.com/summerville and
www.facebook.com/SummerCityBand

Kit Parker, 5C



PREPARING FOR LIFE BEYOND RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Increasingly, universities and employers are selecting applicants who are not only academically able but who can demonstrate that they have taken opportunities to develop skills and gain experience relevant to their future goals. That does not mean that students need to make definite career choices at an early age - quite the opposite. With the rapidly changing labour market they will need to be adaptable and responsive to new developments. Very few will have a job for life; far more will work in roles that do not yet exist.

Impressing university admissions tutors and prospective employers is not the only benefit of an enhanced CV. Students who take a proactive approach to career planning, by exploring what's out there and becoming involved in activities which broadly support their career ideas, give themselves the best chance of following a fulfilling career path that suits their individual interests, abilities and values. RGS News reporter Stephanie White has caught up with a number of students who have recently taken the initiative to explore some future possibilities for themselves.

Mrs F Wilson, Careers Department

WORK EXPERIENCE

Students at Ripon Grammar School are encouraged to make the most of all the opportunities available to them, whether it is in the form of work-experience placements or workshops, the careers department at RGS does all that it can to help find the right course for every student. We are lucky enough to have two weeks of work experience built into the school curriculum, once in the fourth form and a second placement in the lower sixth form; however with places at university becoming more and more competitive, it is important to make the most of all the other extracurricular opportunities offered to us. Many students at Ripon Grammar have been proactive in gaining the experience they need to help them obtain the most favourable places at university and also gain other skills and qualities which are undoubtedly beneficial in their preparation for life after RGS.

Despite many students opting for courses relevant to their future careers, it is also a useful exercise to explore any subject area that they are interested in and keen to learn more about. Additionally, these schemes are not just for sixth formers, there are many opportunities available to younger students. Recently Emma Frost in the fourth year participated in Medlink X, an insight day aimed at pupils in the fourth and fifth years who are interested in pursuing a career in medicine. Many students find it beneficial to take part in courses during their GCSE years to help them when choosing their A-level subjects. I have spoken to three sixth form students about their experiences.

ANNABEL WARD L6A

Annabel took part in an insight day at PricewaterhouseCooper, one of the world's largest accountancy firms.

Did you find the day helpful in making future university and/or career choices?

Yes, the day was very helpful in opening my mind to possibilities other than the traditional University route, I was not sure what to expect but found the day incredibly interesting and very insightful into other career choices.

What did the day entail?

The day involved meeting other people from other schools and universities on the insight day, then we were given talks and presentations by people who worked for PWC. They explained the different career routes within their company and how it all worked. Then we were given the opportunity to network with people currently working for the company.

How did you find speaking within the company and learning from their experiences?

Learning from the people was very helpful and interesting and enabled me to see whether I could possibly work in a company such as PWC.

What advice would you give to students who are unaware of the opportunities offered by companies like PricewaterhouseCoopers?

I think students should take every opportunity to take part in insight days such as this one to learn about different career paths out there and explore career options, as it widens your possibilities and allows you to network with people who can advise you in the career you may choose. Even if, on the day, you find out that this isn't the career path for you, it is beneficial in that you learn new skills and have an opportunity to meet important people.

KATE POTTER L6F

Kate has taken part in various courses to support her application to study Medicine at university.

Which activities have you participated in?

I have attended Medlink, a course held at the University of Nottingham intended for those wanting to study medicine. I also went on the USS medical course held at Leeds University which is run by medical students and an FY1 doctor, it was very informative because it told us not only about medical school and applying, but life after medical school as a newly-qualified doctor. In addition to this I went on an uncovering medical school day at Hull-York Medical School. It was the most interactive course I have attended as we participated in a problem based learning session and learnt how to take blood pressure. We also got the chance to look round halls of residence and talk to current medical students. Lastly, I volunteer in a care home on a weekly basis.

How did you find out about them?

I heard about Medlink through friends who have been on the course in the past and was informed about the other courses by Mrs Wilson of the careers department

Are you hoping to do any more in the future?

Yes, I will be working at James Cook University Hospital for two weeks. I will be spending one week with a gastroenterologist and the other with an orthopaedic surgeon. I am also fundraising for a four week trip to Ghana this summer to gain valuable experience working in a hospital under different conditions to those we experience in the UK and to help with a HIV/AIDS awareness community project.

ISOBEL MITCHELL U6F

Isobel took part in the Goldman Sachs Girls programme, Goldman Sachs is a global investment banking and securities firm.

How did you hear about the programme?

I heard about it from the careers department; a notice was sent round the upper sixth form rooms.

What did it entail?

We had presentations on: what the firm does, 'a day in the life of the firm', interview technique,

body language, internships that they run, charities the firm supports and on two schemes they run called 10,000 small businesses and 10,000 women. We also had mock interviews, networking lunches and dinner, case studies, took part in a 'trading game' where we had to act like we were on the trading floor trying to buy and sell commodities, a drama session and quiz's and also a short presentation from Michael Sherwood co-CEO of Goldman Sachs International.

What skills did you gain/develop?

My communication and confidence skills – I didn't know anybody there and most people knew someone from their own school! I definitely improved my interview technique. I had to talk to industry professionals for a long time and people my age who I had never met before and stay in a hotel room with a girl who I hadn't met before.

Has it helped you in your decisions for the future as regards to which career path you'd like to follow?

Yes, because you hear very bad press about Goldman Sachs and think that they are just investment bankers, and they definitely are not! That is just a small part of the organisation and there are jobs to suit nearly everyone, for example legal, technology, securities, finance, human resources, operations - many more. Also women tend not to consider a firm such as Goldman Sachs because it is very male dominated, however by having this all-girls programme it really gave me an insight into the company and how it operates and how diverse the company really is.

What advice would you give to other students looking for placements that are relevant to their career choice or university application?

Definitely do it! There is no harm in trying. It was a great experience that I definitely benefited from. Programmes like this are made to try and encourage you to want to join their firm in the future, so it doesn't hurt to apply for one and get your name known to them early on. Goldman Sachs have all my details and know that I'm interested in a career there and are supporting me by sending me emails asking how I'm doing, about future internships and things, so it has definitely benefited me and I don't see how any other placements like this would differ.

If you'd like more information about any subject you are interested in, the careers department in school is an excellent resource that I strongly recommend you make the most of!

Many thanks to all the interviewees for their time.

Stephanie White, L6C

Students interested in learning more about any of these experiences should visit the "Careers Education" section of the RGS website. We would be delighted to hear from more students who have participated in careers-related events that they would like to recommend to others.

BOOK WEEK

GET CAUGHT READING AT RGS!

Following on from World Book Day, Ripon Grammar School held a week of reading-based activities with a theme of 'Get Caught Reading at RGS!' from 7th – 11th March. During the week reading lessons were timetabled, allowing students time to sit quietly with a book, something enjoyed by both pupils and staff alike.



Several other activities raised the profile of books and reading. There was a House competition to see how many people could 'Get Caught Reading' around school. If spotted reading they were awarded a voucher by staff which could be taken to the Library to earn a point for their house. Those deemed to be reading above and beyond the call of duty could be rewarded with a special 'spot-prize' voucher entitling them to choose a free book from the Library.



A competition challenged pupils to find out 'Who Got Caught Reading?' with photographs of staff members hiding behind the cover of a book – the book might have given a clue, but then again...

There was a literary quiz with a 'Catch' theme and students were also invited to design their own book cover.

Throughout the week a number of reading bugs could be found scattered around school! These pesky creatures each asked a book-based question – if you found one you could take the bug to the Library with your answer and receive a tasty bookworm biscuit.

Answer this question:
What sort of creature is
Knife?



Take the bug and your
answer to the Library and
claim your BOOKWORM
BISCUIT



On Thursday 10th March a small group of pupils from RGS, Ripon College, Holy Trinity C E Junior School and St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary gathered in the Library for a Creative Writing Workshop run by Wes Magee, a well-known children's author and poet.

Wes talked briefly about his writing and asked us about our favourite books and then students got straight down to writing their own book! Wes led the way, showing the thought processes behind coming up with ideas and playing around with words until you find the right one. He was inspired by the school bell and decided the first piece of writing would be about fire. After pupils jointly created the first verse of a poem about fire they then carried on to write another two or three verses and to illustrate their work.

There was no rest as Wes moved swiftly on to create a drawing of a new character. The group worked together to decide on the character's job, name and where he lived, as well as an imaginary pet for him.

After a quick break for refreshments Wes showed an example beginning for a short story and the students were challenged to come up with a one or two-page story based on the new character.

For a little light relief pupils then worked on the cover and back page for their book, making sure to include the title, author, cover design, bar code with price and even a four-line rhyming blurb.

Students had a long lunch break to allow their brains to recuperate and then it was back to work. As well as completing their covers and back pages, the group worked together with Wes to come up with a play script which turned out to be about Detective Bob and Fiona the cat-burglar who tried to steal six ginger cats from a pet shop!

Finally Wes read his own poem, The Boneyard Rap, and we all joined in with accompanying actions. All the students had a positive, hard-working and enjoyable day, resulting in their own book to take home, including a table of contents, a poem, a short story and a play script they had created themselves – everyone was impressed.





Throughout the week the Library held a venue for lunch time readings by members of staff. A comfy corner was set up where pupils could sit and listen and a programme of events listed for each day.

Mrs Ball read an amusing short story by Paul Jennings and Mr Walker had us creased up with readings from Peter Kay's *The Sound of Laughter*. Mr Smith treated us to an extract from *Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman and talked about the deep themes the book delves into and Mrs Henson looked at the delightful illustrations in children's books and enthralled us when she read them.

Mrs Morris took us back to our childhood as we listened to and joined in with *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen. Ms Pye read out some funny poems and had us laughing in the aisles....

...and Mr Colley looked at a book that had inspired him when he was younger - *The Art of Coarse Rugby* by Michael Green.

By the end of the week everyone had thoroughly enjoyed having the extra time to enjoy reading quietly and had taken part in the special activities with enthusiasm. The house which won the highest number of points by "getting caught reading" was Porteus, with a total of 68 vouchers!



ALEX SCARROW STEALS THE SHOW!



On the final afternoon before we broke up for half term, all the first-year pupils were treated to an author visit. Alex Scarrow writes the Time Riders series of books where a trio of teenagers have to patrol time to stop time travellers changing the course of history.

We were delighted to have year six guests from all five Ripon primary schools with us to enjoy the event. Alex showed us his website and trailers for his books. His enthusiasm was infectious as he talked all about his life and how he came to be a writer.

Alex then chose two teams of three pupils to take part in a history quiz on stage. With one side of the audience pitted against the other there was loud cheering (and booing!) when points were won and lost. Sam did an excellent job as score-keeper and the members of the winning team each received a limited-edition Time Riders T-shirt.

Finally there was a chance to buy copies of Alex Scarrow's books from the Little Ripon Bookshop stand and to have them signed by the author. All-in-all it was an excellent start to the break and got us in the mood for World Book Day and our week of celebrating reading after half term.



Mrs Sally Dring, who joined Ripon Grammar School as Learning Resources Manager in September, was delighted to learn this week that her submission for Chartership has been accepted, meaning that she is now a Member of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals. This follows a three-year period of planning personal and professional development, completing the work and training, compiling a portfolio of evidence and evaluating her experiences, whilst also working full-time as a school librarian.



SPORTS NEWS

SPORTS UNLIMITED

This term we were successful in six bids to Sports Unlimited. Ten week courses in Dance, Fitness, Cheerleading, Golf, Rock Climbing and Swimming have been running throughout the term. The funding either goes towards bringing in coaches to deliver the sessions or towards paying for equipment to help sustain the activities. Particularly pleasing are the links we have forged with Ripon Leisure Centre – Fitness Instructor Karen Magrs has been running a sixth- form Fitness session each week, offering Step, Aerobics, Fitball and Pilates.

GYMNASTICS



Last term Katie Laughner and Ashleigh Messenger were selected to attend a gymnastics judging course run by Harrogate High School. The idea was to train them up so that they could officiate at primary festivals. Both girls passed with flying colours and are pictured here judging a competition between Moorside Infants' School and Holy Trinity Infants' School.

VOLUNTEERS

I have been asked by Ripon Rotary Club to nominate students who volunteer in the community. Naturally I am aware of the stalwart work the Ripon Grammar School Sports Leaders do throughout our cluster of schools but I am also aware that many of our students do voluntary work that I know nothing about. This voluntary work does not have to be just in a sporting capacity – visiting old peoples' homes, helping out with Brownies or Scouting groups, working for hospital radio or the Walled Garden Project – all of these are worthy of nomination. If you are a volunteer, or know someone who is, please email me with all the details on: mackenzieh@ripongrammar.co.uk Volunteers are not paid – not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.

ROCK-IT-BALL

The old and the new joined forces as the historic Ripon Grammar School became the first Centre of Excellence for Yorkshire's young sport Rock-It-Ball, widely described as 'the fastest-growing sport on the planet'.

Rock-It-Ball has enjoyed unparalleled growth since its launch in 2006, spreading rapidly into schools, colleges, universities, youth groups, the military, PCTs and spreading its tentacles into twenty countries of which ten now have National Governing Bodies.

The move to making Ripon Grammar School a Rock-It-Ball Centre of Excellence was spearheaded by Ripon Grammar School Sport Coordinator, Helen Mackenzie, who put forward the idea to the International Rock-It-Ball Federation. She arranged a meeting so that officers of the Federation and the England Rock-It-Ball Association could visit the facilities and meet the Headmaster, Mr Pearman and the Head of PE, Siobhan Gilfillan.

Following a successful meeting it was agreed that Ripon Grammar School would not only become the sport's first Centre of Excellence but would also be appointed as the National Centre of Excellence for Rock-It-Ball.

CEO of the England Rock-It-Ball Association, Ian Crosby, was delighted: "This is fantastic. What a wonderful venue – beautiful location, fantastic facilities that are central and easily accessible. But most importantly it needs a champion who has the drive, vision and enthusiasm to make it succeed and Ripon certainly has that in Helen. This is a fantastic day for both Ripon Grammar School and Rock-It-Ball – not only is this the first Centre of Excellence, it becomes our National Centre of Excellence."

Helen was also pleased with the outcome: "I was introduced to Rock-It-Ball about three years ago and played for the Easi-RockItsHellFighters in the League. A successful lottery bid enabled me to introduce it into the twenty-one Ripon schools and the impact it has had so far has been phenomenal. I love how this sport caters for all abilities, including the children who don't normally get involved in competitive sport. It is just so inclusive and I want Ripon to lead the way."

We have lots of things planned both for Ripon schools in general and for the National Centre of Excellence.

"As the National Centre of Excellence, Ripon Grammar School will be instrumental in assisting the growth of the sport, will establish a local Rock-It-Ball club, host coaching conventions, international training courses and workshops, and will be the home of the England and GB squads."

Rock-It-Ball has not just had an impact in Physical Education. Angus Johnston has composed a theme tune that will be used to introduce players on RIBTV and Mr Herbert had been running a Design Technology project in the fourth-year for students to come up with a design for the new logo for the National Centre of Excellence. All the designs were sent to Ian Crosby, CEO of the England Rock-It-Ball Association, Craig Buttery, Commissioner of the International Rock-It-Ball Federation and Mr Pearman for a final decision...

...and the winner is...



by Charlotte Holstein and Laura-Jayne Josling. It was felt that this design was perfect for Ripon Grammar School and the English National Centre of Excellence but that the middle section could also be used for any country's National Centre of Excellence and would be ideal as a letterhead or a pin badge and would be easily replicated for embroidery on National Centre of Excellence sports kit. Well done girls – your prizes are on their way! Many thanks to Mr Herbert for all his efforts with this project.

MATALAN yoUR SPORT PROJECT

I had the pleasure of taking our two fourth-year sports ambassadors, Emma Frost and Derek Van der Westhuizen to the Dolphin Centre in Darlington where Ripon Grammar School represented the Harrogate School Sport Partnership in the Matalan yoUR sport project.

We experienced less well known sports such as Parkour, Street Cheer, Jump Rope and our favourite, Ultimate Frisbee which we have since tried in fourth-year games. As part of the project we are entitled to £400 worth of equipment for our school.



Mrs H Mackenzie

ROCK CLIMBING CLUB PROVES A SUCCESS WITH STUDENTS AT RGS!

The Rock Climbing Club is one of the newer additions to the ever growing list of extra-curricular activities available to the students at RGS.

It is a good way to exercise and fun to do if you want something a little more exciting as a hobby. If you happen to be doing rock climbing in PE lessons, then you will have had a taste to see whether you like it or not. The after-school club gives you the option of trying to improve your skills, or, if you are a beginner take your first steps. Whatever your level of ability, you can get expert advice from the instructors on the best way to climb.

Climbing involves teamwork, so you can bring along friends to have fun. There are many different routes to try and climb, each one varying in difficulty or design. You can try climbing blindfolded, (which is an interesting challenge!) or you can attempt to climb without the rope being tied at the top and make your way up the wall using clips. No matter what you try, climbing will be an experience that you remember!

Heather Groves 4B

RUGBY NEWS

RGS rugby teams are going well at present and the Seniors enjoyed a tough and competitive day out at the Ampleforth Sevens. Scoring first against Ampleforth, we were disappointed to lose flying county wing Jack Thompson to a muscle injury after just five minutes of the tournament and his pace was badly missed. Further games were played against Yarm, Bradford G.S., Ashville and St Edwards, Liverpool. Despite the high-scoring win against Ashville, this Plate Semi Final was the best game of our afternoon and a strong and dominating performance was not rewarded with a victory. Losing by 5-7 felt hard to take but such is rugby! RGS scored a total of fourteen tries in five matches and Greg Munsch was probably our best forward and scrum half Jack Wilson put in a phenomenal number of tackles throughout the day.

At Otley, RGS under-12s played strongly and showed good levels of skill in their festival matches. Beating Prince Henry's Otley is always difficult but our team managed it in style by three tries to one. A draw against Roundhay looked the likely result until a kick off was taken early, costing us the game. RGS played strongly in their last match to defeat King James's by two tries to one. Powerful runs from Jack Newby and Euan Clyde helped the flying backs to run in the tries and centres Josh Belward and Cameron O'Donnell combined beautifully. Skipper Freddie Wright proved impossible to stop at times.

RGS under-13s went to Moortown R.F.C. for their Festival and beat Wetherby High School by 17-5, Roundhay by 26-0 and Allertonshire High School by 12-0.

Skipper, Jack Baker, centre, Harry Clearey (top try scorer) and lock, Jacob Turner all impressed. It is hoped that at least three of the RGS teams will qualify for the Grand Finals at Ilkley Rugby Club later in the season.

MJ Garvey
Head of Boys' PE

RIPON TYKE



I started playing rugby when I was seven years old at Ripon Rugby Club. When I was thirteen, I was lucky enough to be selected for North Yorkshire and CB School (School of Rugby). For

this I had to train on several occasions. I did not know at the time but during one of the CB School's training sessions I was spotted by a Leeds Carnegie scout. A few weeks after the training session, I received an email saying that I had been selected for the Leeds Carnegie U15s Junior Development Squad. I was delighted.

Presently I am hoping to be selected for the fixtures against other premiership clubs.

George Foster, 3B



SCHOOL SWIMMING

It had been twenty-two years since Ripon Grammar School last swam at Ashville College. However, this all changed on Thursday, 3rd March when we competed in the school's swimming gala, where we were welcomed back with a warm reception.

We took a team of thirty swimmers and were faced with tough competitors from both Ashville College and Bradford Grammar School. The gala involved a combination of individual events, covering all four strokes, along with the relay races where the teams from the three schools were very closely matched. In the girls' category we won convincingly with outstanding performances coming from Anna Jeal in the U13 category and

Ines Wivell in the U15 category. The boys came in second behind Ashville College, with James Woolfenden giving a superb performance for the U15s. Overall, we came in second place, just behind Ashville, which was a superb result for the school.

After the swimming, we went to the dining room for a meal, which gave us the opportunity to reflect upon the success of the afternoon. All swimmers thoroughly enjoyed the competition and we hope that there will be many more galas in the near future!

Amy Ellerker, L6E

ROCK-IT-BALL WORLD RANKINGS FOR RGS PUPILS

Ripon Grammar School Pupils, Hannah Hale (England) and Derek Van der Westhuizen (South Africa) competed in the first ever v2 Rock-It-Ball Youth World Cup in Garforth, West Yorkshire on Sunday 20th February 2011.

V2 is a hi-octane singles discipline of the Yorkshire-born sport that is now widely recognised as the fastest-growing sport in the world. The full team sport is played in a sports hall and points are scored by hitting opponents with sports balls fired from a Rock-It, which is made up of a control bar and a thrower-catcher at each end. V2 is the latest Rock-It-Ball discipline and is played by two players on a squash court - incredibly fast, furious and intensely gladiatorial.

Competing against ten of the world's top young players Hannah and Derek did extremely well to qualify for the championships, as they are relatively new to the sport, having only been introduced to it last year! Their potential was noticed by England captain, Tom Hildreth, when Ripon Grammar School became the National Centre of Excellence. Tom became their captain and coached them intensively and this resulted in an invitation to compete at the championships.

The standard of competition was very high, with the games being extremely fast paced and intense. With each game lasting for two halves of four minutes and a two minute rest interval the effort soon began to tell on all the players.

In the qualifying rounds they both put in superb performances, competing against players who have been playing the sport for several years. Derek won three of his five matches, only losing two games, one of which was lost

by one point to Dan Raper the pre-tournament favourite and eventual winner. It was a massive achievement for Derek to come so close. Hannah also won three out of her five matches, beating one of the pre-tournament favourites, Sara Cooper, in the process and losing only narrowly to two of the best players. Ironically, after both performing to such a high standard, in the final match they were pitted against each other, something which made the adrenalin flow even more. The match proved very tough with the two athletes being very closely matched; however, on the day Derek had the edge and went into half time leading by six points. The second half was as fast and furious as the first with Hannah fighting hard to claw back the deficit, however Derek was on form with his blocking and managed to repel a lot of Hannah's attacks and he finally ran out the winner by 57-48.

Ripon Grammar School Sports Leaders played their part in the day, helping make the event run smoothly and special mention to Chris Mahoney for acting as DJ throughout the day.

Helen Mackenzie of Ripon Grammar School was delighted with the school's impact: "I am so proud of Hannah and Derek. To have come so far so soon is unprecedented. Tom has done so well to have got them to world rankings of sixth and fifth in such a short time. I'm delighted with my sports leaders, too - they worked very hard and did me, the school and themselves proud."

If anyone is interested in playing this new, exciting sport, please contact Helen Mackenzie for more details, or come along to the Ripon Rock-It-Ball Club at the Ripon Grammar School Sports Hall, Thursday evenings from 6-7.30pm.

Amy Ellerker, L6E



CROSS-COUNTRY FESTIVAL IS A RUNAWAY SUCCESS



September saw the Ripon Primary Schools' Cross-Country Festival take place. The event was hosted at Holy Trinity Junior School, using their grounds and the adjacent fields of St Wilfrid's.

The festival was a joint venture between the two Sports Co-ordinators at Ripon College (Emily Falcus) and Ripon Grammar School (Helen Mackenzie). Sports Leaders from both secondary schools acted as marshalls for the event, some even jogging round the course with the youngsters, encouraging them all the way.



A huge aerobics warm up was held on the field prior to the races. All-in-all, 380 children took part, representing their schools with the first four runners from each school counting for their team. Suzanne Rickard, a mum from Holy Trinity and a member of Ripon Runners acted as the hare, showing the children the route and leading them to the finishing line.

It was the first school sport event Helen Mackenzie had been involved in since being off for a year and she was delighted with how well it went. "The beauty of holding a cross country event is that schools can bring as many children as they want. Some of our larger schools brought more than eighty students, but with only four counting for the actual race, the very small schools can take part on a level playing field. All the children performed really well and credit must go to the Sports Leaders who are a fantastic resource in all the festivals we hold for the Ripon Schools."

As the last runners crossed the line the rain started to fall so everyone retired to the hall at Holy Trinity for the presentation of the prizes. Trophies and medals were sponsored by Harrogate Sports Trophies and were awarded as follows;

Year 5/6 Girls – Greystone

Year 5/6 Boys – St Wilfrid's

Year 1/2 Girls – Fountains

Year 1/2 Boys – Bishop Monkton

Mrs H MacKenzie



GIRLS' SPORTS NEWS ROUNDUP

BADMINTON

The U14 Girls played very well in the Girls' Badminton Tournament to finish in second place with good wins over Rossett and Harrogate High. Sadly, the team lost out to a strong Harrogate Grammar team after a hard fought match. A special word of thanks goes to all the students who officiated and helped this event. Without their hard work and willingness to give up their time the tournament would not have been the success it was.

FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the U-16 girls' football team who beat George Pindar Community Sports College from Scarborough 6 – 0 in the North Yorkshire Schools FA Cup Semi Final with a hat-trick from Tilly Bland, two goals from Martina Petrova and one from Hannah Hale. Unfortunately the title was not to be and the team lost to Filey in the final. Currently the team are having a strong run in the English Schools' FA cup.

SPORTS FESTIVAL

In November, RGS travelled to Queen Ethelburga's school for a festival of sport. Sixty-five students were involved in swimming and hockey matches in what proved to be a very successful evening. The girls' swimming team put on a strong show to beat the home team 112 points to 72.

HOCKEY

In spite of the weather it has been a good season for the hockey teams with matches against many schools in the area. The teams have also featured in tournaments and took part in the sports festival at Queen Ethelburga's. Notable results include the U13's 8 – 0 win over Harrogate High, the First XI 5-1 win over Queen Ethelburga's and the early season U15's 4 -0 win against Rossett.

TENNIS

An individual mention should be made for Amy Gatford, who competed in the U14 Grade 4 Winter Regional Tour in Newcastle in January. Her win at this competition ensured qualification for the Grade 3 regional competition which takes place in Lancashire, in March.

ASTROTURF UPDATE FROM THE HEADMASTER

The Astroturf project has nearly reached completion this term and the students are already looking forward to using this excellent new facility. It includes a full-size hockey pitch as well as a 100-metre running track which will allow for hurdles training. The surface is multi-purpose and will suit sports such as hockey, football, tennis and cricket amongst others. The total cost of the project is £270,000 and I am extremely grateful to parents who have donated through fundraising to enable this project to go ahead. I am also very grateful to governors who provided the remaining funding to enable the project to reach fruition so soon.

Mr B Hampshire



Joe Priestley, U6F

The Astroturf is available to the community for booking through Mr Hanson, the Premises Manager, and I hope that clubs in Ripon will be able to take advantage of this new facility. To mark the opening of the Astroturf there will be an event for those who have donated to the project which will involve a wide range of sporting activities on the evening of 20th May. We shall shortly be contacting those involved to invite them to the event.

M L Pearman, Headmaster

RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL STUDENTS SHINE IN BRITISH SCHOOLS BIATHALON

On Sunday, 31st January 2011, nine students from Ripon Grammar School went to Macclesfield in Cheshire to compete in the National Schools' Biathlon semi-final round. It was a very long journey for only a short swim and run, however everyone's spirits were high throughout. Everybody put in a superb effort against some of the best athletes from a range of schools. The day was a great success with our school achieving excellent results and all competitors improving upon their previous performance in the qualifying round. Below are the results of the day:

Year 5 Girls	Amy Mackenzie	21st
Year 9 Boys	Ben Pilling	26th
Year 9 Girls	Anna Jeal	15th
Year 10 Boys	James Woolfenden	9th
	Laurie Edwards	11th
Year 10 Girls	Ines Wivel	21st
	Mabel Ellerker	25th
Year 12/13 Girls	Amy Ellerker	9th
	Kate Robinson	20th

Mrs Helen Mackenzie is in discussion with Ann Marshall from Pentathlon GB to arrange Ripon Grammar School Biathalons and events in primary schools. The pentathlon officials are also going to be putting on demonstration lessons in fencing and shooting at the school. This is a major step forward for Ripon Grammar School and it is rapidly expanding our links with the sporting world. A massive thanks is in order for Mrs Mackenzie for supporting us at the Biathlon and for her continued support in the development of sport at Ripon Grammar School.

Amy Ellerker, L6E

MATTHEW CLARE ENGLAND BADMINTON CHAMPION

Matthew Clare, 3A, was a member of the Yorkshire team that won the Badminton England Under-15 National Team Championships on 6th March. The team of four boys and three girls won the regional qualifying rounds in November and at the final event they defeated eleven other counties to claim the national team title. Matthew, the youngest member of the team, will be the only member of this year's team who will still be eligible to participate in next year's U15 championship – so this was a particularly special achievement for Matt. The final deciding match against Hertfordshire was a real nail-biter, with Yorkshire coming from 2-3 down to win the match 4-3, only taking the final rubber 21-19. Parents and players were all very pleased (and relieved!)





OLD RIPONIANS' ASSOCIATION

President/Secretary:
Mrs Jenny Bellamy
Treasurer:
Mr George Owram

ALFRED HERBERT GREEN (6 NOVEMBER 1917 - 18 JULY 2010)

If you had been passing Ripon Grammar School on July 30th 2010 you would have seen that the school flag was flying at half mast and perhaps wondered who was being honoured. The flag was there to mark the death of a former pupil, Alfred Herbert Green, whose life, and that of his family, touched many people in Ripon and the surrounding area throughout his long and fruitful life.

Alfred's father, Herbert Arthur Green (1881-1967), came from Denton, near Grantham. He was one of twelve children, with all six boys involved in the stone business either as monumental masons, house builders or church restorers. Herbert was working on restoration at York Minster when he saw an advertisement for masons, builders and plumbers to go to South Africa to help build up the country after the Boer War. He responded to that plea and did much valuable work there.

Herbert returned to England in 1904 and began work with the most significant builder in Ripon, Henry Boddy, who was responsible for building many of the largest houses in Ripon, including those on College Lane and North Street. In 1908, Herbert took over Boddy's business, and ended up at 53 Blossomgate, eventually calling his business H. A. Green and Sons.

In 1915, Herbert married Annie Oliver (1878-1959) and three children were born to them, Mary, Alfred and Robert. Alfred and Robert both attended RGS. Robert joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and saw service with Bomber Command against the Germans in Europe. He lost his life in January 1945 after a bombing raid. His name is recorded on the war memorial in the school library.

Born in the front bedroom above the shop at 53 Blossomgate, in November 1917, Alfred won a County Minor Scholarship at Coltsgate Hill School and attended Ripon Grammar School for four years, leaving in 1933. He was in the same form as Professor David Kendall, who became one of the most prominent mathematicians in the world. Alfred was always proud that he regularly came second to David in mathematics examinations!

Having passed his School Certificate examination (University of Cambridge) Alfred went on to Harrogate Art School where he studied from 1934 to 1937. After passing his examinations there, most with Distinction, Alfred left full-time education to work with his mother and father in the family firm. After the death of his father in 1967, Alfred took over the firm. He had married Alice Herron in 1957 and they had five children, Jeremy, Sharon-Jane (died 1961), Claire, Simon and Sharon.

The family firm has, for over a hundred years, provided a service for the people of Ripon and now Claire and Sharon are continuing the business, providing the same service that their father and grandfather did.



The Green family's links with Ripon Grammar School continued with Alfred's own family, since Jeremy and Claire were students at the school and Thomas, his grandson, attends the Sixth Form. Alfred kept his links with the school all his adult life and he attended many functions, watching with interest the changes there.

He was a much valued committee member of the Old Riponians' Association. Those of us on that committee, remember well the last meeting he attended, in February 2010, when he offered his firm's services to restore the memorial stone that had been dug up when the Sixth-Form centre was being built. The stone was in memory of a teacher at the school, Mr Kent and Alfred told us that his father, Herbert, had probably actually carved the stone. The family firm also made the stone memorial which stands on the field, bought by the Old Riponians' Association to commemorate those former pupils who had died in the war. Claire Green, now on the Old Riponians' committee, will continue to keep an eye on both those stones to ensure they remain in good condition for future generations of Old Rips to see.

Alfred was very much a Ripon man. His parents founded the Assembly of God Church here and he continued to be involved in that and other Christian Societies throughout his life. He never stopped working in the family business, providing a consultancy service until within six weeks of his death from cancer on Sunday, 18th July at the age of 92.

On the day of his funeral, in Holy Trinity Church, every seat seemed to be filled, with friends and family representing all parts of his life. The service was planned by Alfred himself with five members of the clergy representing the different churches of Ripon taking part. It was indeed a most fitting celebration of his life.

We already miss his presence on the committee and welcome Claire who has taken his place, encouraged by her father to do so.

DEJA VU!!!

“Come along, secure in the knowledge that, if it snows again, you'll be snugly protected in the Sports Hall”.

Last year's report in the Newsletter about the Old Rips Reunion at Christmas 2009 ended with this invitation to everyone to come to our 2010 Reunion unafraid of the snow, because we had our new Sports Hall to protect us. When I wrote that, it was with tongue in cheek as I didn't believe we could have such a winter two years running.

I was of course wrong. History repeated itself and we had no rugby match because of a frozen pitch but the netball, hockey and soccer matches took place inside the Sports Hall and although we didn't have so many spectators as last year (well, it really was bad weather for travelling) a good time was had by all.

We had a lovely tea in the hall and were so pleased to see so many recent sixth formers coming back to school on Old Rips Day. We didn't have a single case of frost bite!

Ever the optimists, we've set the date for the next Christmas reunion for December 17th 2011. Will it really snow again? Just in case we're in the process of organising a summer reunion as well for July 7th this year with a cricket match and some tennis too. Who knows; we may have to use the Sports Hall to avoid sunstroke but I bet it won't snow!

Mrs J Bellamy

MEET THE STAFF

Jackie Dawson, Commercial Development Executive



I would take this opportunity to introduce myself; I joined Ripon Grammar School in November 2010 as Commercial Development Executive. This new role, created with the support of the Governors, aims to identify, initiate and implement a range of income generating activities on behalf of the school. My role is part-time, and I am generally in school from Monday to Thursday between 9.45am to 2.45pm.

Since joining the staff in November, I have been getting to grips with school life and meeting as many students and parents as possible at various events such as the Sixth-Form Open Evening and the Strategic Planning Meetings.

I am starting to develop strong links with the Old Riponians; we have now met on a number of occasions to agree how we can work together in the future. I wrote to all Old Riponians in February asking them for their contact details so we can start to build a database to keep everyone up-to-date with exciting plans for events and reunions over the coming year. This will culminate in a celebratory event in 2012 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the merger of Ripon Grammar School and Ripon Girls' High School in 1962. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to respond; responses have shown that former students are located throughout the UK and further afield in Australia, Canada and Japan.

I am also planning to introduce a newsletter to advise all our stakeholders of plans to enhance the facilities, such as the new Sports Hall and Astroturf, and I am keen to form a network of regional contacts to help facilitate meetings and events for former students around the country. I would love to hear from parents, former students and current students and would welcome your views and feedback. I look forward to hearing from you.

dawsonj@ripongrammar.co.uk or Tel: 01765 602647 x392.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April

Tues 26	School Opens
Fri 29	Public Holiday (Royal Wedding)

May

Mon 2	Bank Holiday
Fri 27	School closes 3.55pm

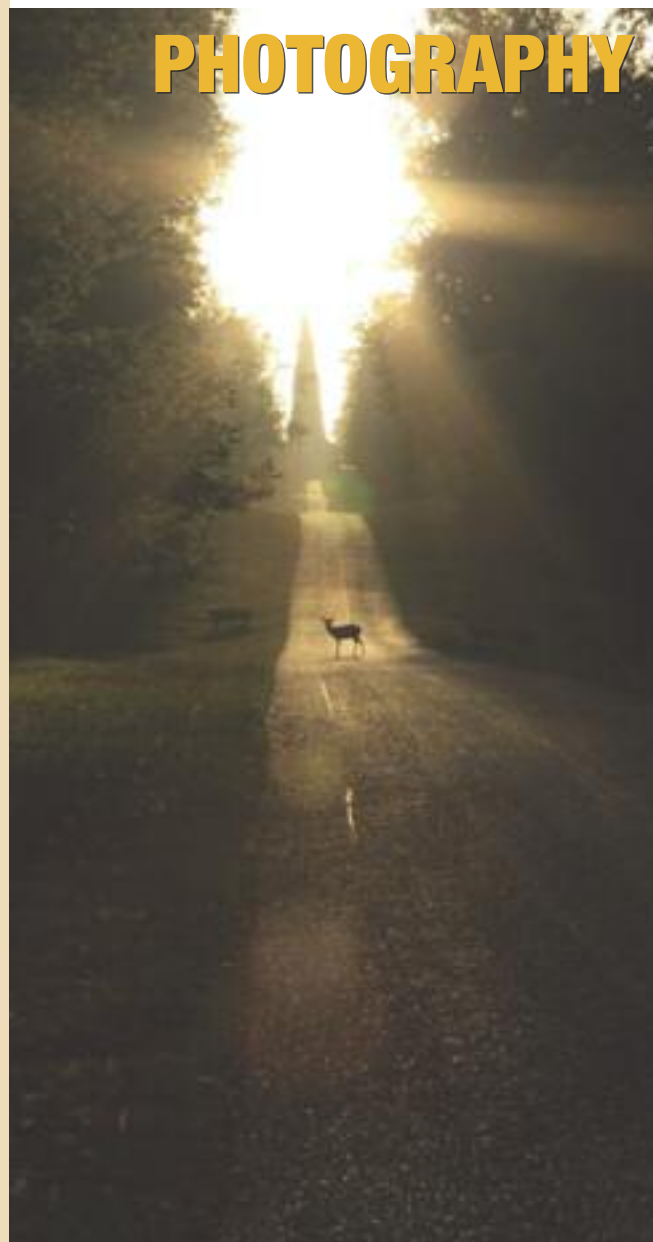
June

Mon 6	School Opens
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July

Wed 6	Sports Day
	Junior School Production, The Jungle Book 7.00pm
Thurs 7	Junior School Production, The Jungle Book 7.00pm
Fri 8	Junior School Production, The Jungle Book 7.00pm
Wed 13	Lower-School Prizegiving 2.00pm
Thurs 14th	Staff Training Day
Wed 20th	Commemoration Services, Ripon Cathedral 11.00am
	School closes 12.30pm

PHOTOGRAPHY



Ben Nabarro, 5C

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR...

This term has been a very busy one at RGS, with many events happening both in and out of school. We have found the experience of helping Mrs Storey oversee the publication of this magazine very rewarding and many thanks to all of the people who contributed to it. With the help of Lucinda Redfearn, Isobel Shaw and Eleanor Warren we have been able to compile articles describing all aspects of school life into this edition and we hope that you enjoy reading the Easter RGS News.

Amy Ellerker and Steph White

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