

Save the Rhino

A talk to first Year students about rhino poaching and the terrible effects it is having

Young Enterprise

Nestlers were awarded Highly Commended and Praesidio spread awareness about drink-spiking

History Trip to Krakow

"The experiences of Auschwitz-Birkenau and Schindler's Factory have left a profound impact on me"

Issue 49 Spring 2018

RGS News



Ella Jamieson, 2A



WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Spring edition of the RGS News and thank you once again to Mrs Hargraves and the editorial team for bringing this publication together. I do hope you enjoy the reports in this publication which continue to chronicle the remarkable and diverse activities our students are engaged in.

The academic year continues to march on with alarming pace. Just as we have finished our round of mock examinations, thoughts inevitably begin to turn to the real things this summer and I am sure all the students from the Fifth Form to the Upper Sixth are busy planning their revision timetables and starting that all-important process of ticking off the topics they understand and can recall with swift and subtle accuracy.

Equally, the seasonal year continues to move forward. We had our bout of bad weather in late February as the 'Beast from the East' managed to curtail two days of school. This inevitably raised the usual concerns in the print and social media about 'health and safety going mad' and the handwringing about how the UK fails to cope with snow when our European cousins seem to effortlessly glide through it. Of course, a simple cost-benefit analysis suggests that the cost of investing in gritters, snow ploughs and winter tyres outweighs the economic cost of days lost to snow. Unfortunately this has its knock-on effect for schools. No doubt our students used the opportunity to invest their time wisely in revision or in reading a good book!

Now, as I write this and look out of my office window, the daffodils and crocuses are pushing their way up through the turf of the inner quad with an accompanying array of yellow, purple and violet. I was even woken by the birds this morning. So Spring is definitely on its way at last, and hopefully the spirits will lift commensurately.

With best wishes

Jonathan M Webb (Headmaster)

RGS SKI TRIP VAL DI FIEMME 2018

Over half term, a group of 60 students in the Second, Third and Fourth form, along with staff, escaped the grey February weather of Ripon to visit the sparkling snow of the Italian Dolomites.

Despite a slow (or even static) start caused by a bus breakdown, spirits were high after being forced to spend a few hours in a service station safe in the knowledge that there were plenty of food outlets to keep us entertained. With a new bus and a later than planned ferry, lost time was made up throughout France, Germany and Austria and we finally arrived at Hotel Canada in Bellamonte, Italy only about 3 hours behind schedule.

Snow conditions were excellent and, despite temperatures that dipped to -15C, a full and exciting week of skiing was enjoyed by all. With ski lessons in the morning and afternoon, and activities including a ski race, sledging, swimming and ice-cream and pizza night, the week was topped off with an awards evening. The atmosphere amongst the group was fantastic all week and we all enjoyed every second.

Many bumps and bruises later, the long journey home was a lot quieter than on the way out, with many taking the opportunity to catch up on some sleep. A highlight of this part of the trip was the race to be first in the queue for McDonalds at Watford Gap Service Station.

Thank you to Mr Margerison and all the staff for a fantastic week.

Molly Acton, 3A



SKI TRIP 2018 Review

Twas the night before Ski Trip and all through the houses
Everyone was packing their ski jackets and trousers
All the bags were packed in the bus boot with care
Hoping Mr Marge would soon take us there.
At last the broken bus disappeared
But the new one arrived and everyone cheered.
A funny Welsh driver came onto our bus,
We knew in a moment, it must be Russ!

And more rapid than eagles to Dover we came,
The teachers shouted "Michael!" - we've lost him again.
And so down to Italy the bus soon flew
Through France, Germany, Austria too.
Down the slalom we came in jumps, leaps and bounds,
Laughing at the people who fell on the ground.
Skiing was fun, but a lot of hard work,
The boys waved at 'Natalie' with a wink and a smirk.

Crashing into Italians was quite the scandal,
And we sledged down the slopes too fast to handle.
But the end of the week soon came towards,
With thanks to the instructors whom we adored.
So, sat on the bus with our rosy red cheeks
We thanked all the teachers for a wonderful week.

By: Imogen Dow 4B, Lily Aikman 4B, Bella Binks 4A, Molly Disbury

ART TRIP TO NEWCASTLE



On 21 February, Year 11 Art pupils ventured past the school gates on a trip to Newcastle to further their development on their GCSE exam title, 'Fragments'.

The first stop on the trip was the South Gare boat yard near to Redcar. Though it may not seem riveting upon first inspection, the location was extremely useful in providing inspiration for the students' final pieces. The peculiar textures, such as frayed rope and spines of former boats, permitted students to explore the 'fragments' title in great depth and be inspired further in their development. The students took great pleasure in taking interesting pictures of the yard which can now be used in their sketchbook as part of their coursework.

Next on the agenda was Newcastle's Hatton Gallery, containing art work of all styles and perspectives and exhibitions from artists such as Shaun Scully and Kurt Schwitters. Pupils again took pictures as they hunted for pieces that appealed to them, whilst also trying to decipher the meaning behind the more abstract pieces on display in the gallery.

Another gallery we visited was the Laing. This was perhaps my personal favourite, with captivating interior design and carvings before even entering the exhibitions themselves. Students were granted permission to explore the Bomberg exhibition and takes notes on his interesting work with acrylic paint, as well as the other vast array of styles the gallery has on offer.

The last stop on our trip was the Sage. On the way we voyaged past Tyne and Millennium Bridge, snapping pictures as we went. The purpose of seeing these monumental building was for the students more interested in architecture for their final piece. Sean Scully himself has said he was greatly inspired by the Tyne Bridge in his paintings, including industrial tape and acrylic. The reflections on the water of the vast structure acted perfectly as a focus for photography.

The day seemed to be a huge success with both pupils and teachers. Many commented on how useful they found the trip and how beneficial it would be in the development of their final piece.

Emily Koscik-Jones, 5B





ESU Mace competition - North East Regional Final

Before ...

On Monday 5th March Ripon Grammar School will be hosting the North East regional final of the English Speaking Union's Schools Mace. Six teams will be competing for the chance to go to London for the national final of the competition.

Along with the RGS team of Gus Smith and Poppy Jagger, Bootham School, Durham High School for Girls, Hymers College, RGS Newcastle and St Aidan's CE HS are competing. We will be debating against the Bootham team, opposing a motion that would have the England football team boycott the 2018 Russian World Cup. The other two debates will concern whether environmentalists are justified in using violence to make a point and whether it is right to hire medical professionals from abroad. Only one team will go through this round, so not only do we have to beat the team we are debating but all the teams in attendance.

Each team will be judged on the quality of their expression, strength of their arguments and their ability to respond on the spot to points made by the other team. This means it is a test of both public speaking skills, ability to construct an argument and quick thinking. Although many aspects of the debate can be planned for, each team will introduce points the other is not expecting meaning every debate has an aspect of spontaneity. Rather than being judged against only the team you are debating each team is marked on a series of criteria so the best overall teams are allowed through.

The last round of the competition was also hosted at Ripon Grammar earlier this term in January, when both Silcoates School and Queen Mary's School were knocked out. Ripon Grammar debated St Aidan's CE HS on whether airbrushing should be banned in the media, with both teams being allowed through. The debate had been scheduled for Wednesday 28th February but unfortunately due to the snow this had to be postponed but we are all looking forward to the competition!

Poppy Jagger, L6C



And after ...

The evening began with a debate on NHS recruitment from less economically developed countries with St Aidan's Harrogate against RGS Newcastle.

Spirited, if a little informal at times, Newcastle spoke with flair and passion, as did the very fluent and controlled St Aidan's. A combative summary speech from Aidan's rounded off a well-researched and detailed first debate of the evening.



Next up was the first of two featuring teams from Ripon Grammar. Due to a last minute withdrawal by another team, two volunteers hadn't to be found at RGS to debate three hours later. A tall order, but one ably met by the ever confident and irascible duo of Thaddeus Davey and Joe Willis of the Lower Sixth, ranged from Marx to Columbus with wit and flair. Their generous offer to participate in front of judges, spectators and other schools when, as a 'swing team', they would be ineligible to progress through the competition, is much appreciated. Hymers' team, obviously better prepared with a month to research and prepare their opposition, nonetheless found plenty to debate within the impressive impromptu performance of the RGS volunteers.

The final debate featured the RGS team 'proper', Gus Smith and Poppy Jagger, already in the final 36 teams nationally in this prestigious event. Their topic, boycotting the Russian World Cup, was more challenging than anything they had yet faced in the early rounds. A strong opposition from Bootham, in their first year in the competition, made useful points in a strong argument, but it was the creative lateral thinking of Poppy and Gus which impressed. A wide ranging debate covered hooliganism, corruption, workers' rights, the rule of law and doping: the research and grasp of such complex issues by pupils only in the lower sixth was superb.

The official ESU judges deliberated at length before revealing the one team of the night to progress to the final round in London in March: St Aidan's with RGS Newcastle runners up.

Huge thanks are due to Mr Webb for permission to host at RGS, to Mrs Dring and Miss Hutchinson for the loan of the library, and to the RGS pupil volunteers who helped run, time and chair: Kat Dale, Joe Willis, George Vivian and Thaddeus Davey. It's been a privilege to work with the team and helpers this year, our most successful yet.

Mrs Mars

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Praesidio



February has been a busy month for Praesidio, and we have spent most of our time preparing for the National Trade Fair on Saturday 10th March in Stratford-upon-Avon, a huge opportunity for the team to both sell more units and spread awareness about drink-spiking, one of the major goals of our company. March also contains the Harrogate round for the national Young Enterprise competition, an opportunity for Praesidio to compete with other local schools before a group of judges. Fingers crossed!

The last two months have also been a cause for celebration as we have turned a profit, overcoming initial start-up costs and proving that there is a market for drink-spike detection tests. It has been a slightly turbulent period for the company internally, as we have had to let a couple of members go. We are looking forwards to the future opportunities though, and are confident that we'll triumph at the local final!

George Vivian, L6F, Managing Director



Nestlers

This year, a group of lower 6th students have come together to form the company 'Nestlers'. The company's principles revolve around the idea of bird conservation, an extremely relevant topic at the moment given that 67 bird species are in danger of extinction. To play our part in the prevention of this, we sell handmade bird boxes, along with bird feeders, to enable people of all ages to engage with the birds we see everyday. Our RSPB based bird box design has been proven to provide a safe home for a number of different bird species.



The Nestlers' winning trade stand at ASDA in Harrogate

From Left to right: Poppy Jagger, Beatrice Handley, Joseph Horner and Poppy Robinson

We have already sold a number of bird boxes, many of these being at the ASDA trade fair in December, where we picked up the award for the best trade stand. We are in the process of preparing for the showcase competition where each company is judged by a panel of local business leaders, and along with this, we are restocking for the National Trade Fair in Stratford-Upon-Avon, which promises to be a great opportunity to enhance our sales further.

If you wish to purchase one of handmade our boxes, please contact either Mr Walker (walkerb@ripongrammar.co.uk) or Joseph Horner (joseph.horner123@icloud.com). You can also follow our Instagram @nestlers.ye and our Facebook page 'Nestlers.ye'.

We thank you in anticipation for your support.

The Nestlers Team



Nestlers Update

The National trade Fair in Stratford-Upon-Avon proved to be an extremely successful day for the Nestlers team. After an early start and a long journey for the students who attended (Joseph Horner, Emma Kelly, Poppy Robinson, Oluwasolabomi Sowole and Poppy Jagger), the team began a long day of sales at around 10am. After hours of hard selling, numerous trips to re-stock, scrutiny from a team of top judges, all 60 teams assembled for the prize giving where Nestlers were awarded with the 'Highly Commended' award. This rounded off an extremely enjoyable day for the team, who are now preparing for the Young Enterprise Company Challenge Harrogate Showcase on 26th March.



From left to right: Oliver Rockey, Joseph Horner, Poppy Robinson and Oluwasolabomi Sowole



Praesidio Update

On Saturday 10th March at 5:45am both Ripon Grammar School Young Enterprise teams set off for Stratford upon Avon for the National Trade Fair. When we arrived we realised that this event was unlike anything we had been to so far. Other teams had set up huge stalls and very professional desks and lighting displays but, undeterred, we set about organising our stalls and employing our expert selling techniques. Although our product (Drink Spike Detection Tests) isn't targeted at the general public, we were able to speak to some very important influential people, for example, the Student Union representatives for Anglia Ruskin University who are very interested in buying our unique product. Overall, the day was fun, very demanding and a very important marketing opportunity.

George Vivian, L6F, Managing Director

Prince's Trust Update



Prince's Trust

Following on from the fundraising before Christmas, involving Christmas stalls, bake sales and candy canes, the team have most recently sold Valentine's roses and received a generous donation of £250 from Ripon Rowels Rotary Club after giving a talk

on the work the trust does to support young people and how the Ripon Grammar School are fundraising for such a worthwhile cause. So far the team have raised a fantastic £659.50 and are building on this fundraising amount with the sale of RGS sweatshirts for the reasonable price of £20.

Order forms are available in Mr Walker's room or on the school website.



The Prince's Trust Team 2018

From left to right: (Front row) Poppy Jagger, Catherine Wood, Clarissa Katsikides, Marianne Morrice, Isabella Screen, Sophie Richardson and Abi Lovel.

(Back Row) Eve Ison, Emmi Scaife, Emily Parry, Charlotte Brown, Jessica Hasson, Charlotte Crum, Olivia Tiplady and Natasha Lovel

KRAKOW TRIP 2018



On 18th January 2018, 47 GCSE history students spent four days in the Polish city of Krakow and the surrounding area.

After arriving from Leeds-Bradford at 1pm on Thursday, we had an orientation tour led by Mr Spiers of the beautiful city centre, including the largest medieval market place in Europe, the famous asymmetrical towers of St Mary's Church and heard the trumpet call of the bugler in memory of the warning cut short by a Tartar arrow in 1241. The next day we had a guided tour of the Old Town and Jewish area of Kazimierz, learning lots about Krakow's vibrant history, focusing particularly on life during the Nazi occupation of 1939-45. We then spent the afternoon in the Schindler Museum, made famous by the Steven Spielberg film, and got to see the consequences of Hitler's rule on Krakow, and especially on the city's Jewish population. This contrasted to the fantastic meal and live music we got to experience in a Jewish restaurant; the band, 'The Legend of Kazimierz' played a range of traditional Jewish, Balkan and fusion compositions, creating a really vibrant atmosphere inside the restaurant.

For everyone, the most important and one must say harrowing part of the trip was the visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Until you visit a death camp, the Holocaust seems distanced from everyday life, but seeing 80,000 shoes and tonnes of human hair just inches in front of you makes the history and suffering excruciatingly real. We were able to walk through Block 11, infamous for the torture and starvation cells housed within its basement, and through the gas chamber located in the original camp. Whilst walking along the railway line leading to the Birkenau camp, the heavy snow created an incredibly oppressive atmosphere; as far as we could see were row upon row of brick chimneys stretching in every direction; all that remains of hideous blocks, simply waiting rooms for death each housing one thousand people.



On the final day, we visited the Galicia Museum in Kazimierz which portrayed the lives of Polish Jews throughout the 20th century through a touching series of photographs.

The museum allowed us to see that, despite the oppression and mass murder of the Jewish population, the culture in some ways endures. Traces like holes that once contained mezuzah (small scrolls containing excerpts from the Torah) were still visible in door frames across the district.

The trip was, despite difficult travel circumstances, an enjoyable and truly moving experience that will remain with us. We would like to thank Mrs Fell, Mr Bruce and former RGS student turned history teacher Mr Bucktrout for accompanying and helping us, but particularly Mr Spiers, without whom we would never have been able to experience Krakow.

Phoebe Hall, 5A

Impact of the trip

The Krakow trip has stood out to me from other trips I've been on at my time at RGS.

The underlying aim of the trip was to further our understanding of the Holocaust; whilst we immersed ourselves in the rich Polish culture in Krakow, especially that of the Jewish population. The experiences of Auschwitz-Birkenau and Schindler's Factory have left a profound impact on me. It is these sites, which are so closely tied to the Holocaust, that bring to light the true reality of the Holocaust, and even then you can't bring yourself to comprehend the horrors involved. When you learn and read about the Holocaust (especially from our society's background, where we aren't directly affected by its outcomes) you distance yourself from what happened, you observe it. Whilst you sympathise wholeheartedly with the victims and condemn the actions, you still don't actually know the magnitude of suffering and the crimes committed. Even having been to the death camps and seeing a display of fake limbs collected of the victims before they were systematically murdered, makes it harder for you to imagine how human beings did this.

As I walked round Auschwitz 1 in the snowy conditions, I looked at the courtyard, I looked at the blocks and I looked at the cells, and I tried to picture what life would have been like, but I couldn't. You realise you cannot understand, or imagine what happened, and the image you conjure is surreal. Because these actions of such hate are so surreal to us we cannot define them, no words I can write now describe Auschwitz-Birkenau, and I could never begin to describe what the victims faced. All I can do is remember what happened there and never forget. I think the impact it has had on us all is that we can't ignore it; we must remember in order for something like the Holocaust to never happen again. The words of a young schoolgirl have particularly resonated with me: 'Oh, pain! But I'm glad I can 'feel' that it hurts because as long as it hurts, I'm a human being.'

Tom Senior, 5E



Berlin is an interesting and vibrant city containing some of the most important elements of German history.

The study of the Cold War as part of our A Level course provides a detailed analysis of the impact of Germany and its position in the Superpower conflict. Not only was this trip a cultural and exciting experience, it was also enriching to see the artefacts and memorials firsthand to expand our understanding on this period of history as well as a wider context such as the Holocaust and the developments after Germany's first unification during the 18th and 19th centuries.

On arriving in Berlin, we were straight into the heart of the city with our first outing being the Bundestag building with the incredible glass dome in the centre. Opened in 1894, until the Reichstag fire of 1933, it was known as the Reichstag building during the time of Hitler and Nazism. As we gazed out across the city and its incredible views, we learnt about the democracy of the country as well as more information about the area we were visiting. Although this building seemed to be at the epicentre of all democracy in Germany with the dedication of 'Dem deutschen Volke', meaning 'to the German People', this building had not been in use until the unification in 1990. This area also included the Brandenburg gate, an iconic monument when you think of Germany and its people due its establishment by Frederick William II. The gate commonly symbolises a divided Germany due to its geographical place in Berlin.

Following our first evening in Germany, we were starting to get immersed in the culture and atmosphere of Berlin. The next morning we started our day with an underground tour. Finding out about Hitler's superior bunker as well as the claustrophobic spaces for civilians was incredibly insightful into their treatment by Hitler and the Nazis as well as the overall impact of the bombings and fighting of World War Two. The German civilians being those who were affected the most from the attacks.

Friday morning was dedicated to our study of the first unification of Germany. We travelled to the German History Museum located in the area of Mitte, the most historical Borough in Berlin. Here, we had time to collect and study primary and secondary sources for our coursework. We seemed to be keeping to the schedule when there was a slight delay due to a lost key for coats and bags. Mr Bruce's bargaining tool for the key (a sum of Euros) seemed to make everyone sprint round the museum for the second time. Alas, the key had already been found and we waited for its return. Once reunited with our belongings, we headed for East Berlin to see the consequences of fear and suspicion under the control of the Soviet Union in a Stasi Prison. Hatred and paranoia echoed throughout the building as we found out the truth behind the secrets of the Soviet Union as they controlled the civilians of the East. It was a moving and disturbing experience.

It was hard to imagine anything worse than what we had experienced on that Friday afternoon at the Stasi prison. However, we were wrong. As we prepared for Sachsenhausen, we could not have determined how inspiring yet devastating it would be to see this on our last day. I will never forget it. We continued that day to see what other events of Germany Hitler had control over. This included the 1936 Olympic Stadium.



UPPER SIXTH FORM HISTORY TRIP TO BERLIN

We learnt about its current occupation as a football stadium and athletic tracks as well as the reasons behind its architecture and materials presenting the imposing structure to express the Nazi's powerful regime.

After this incredible and overwhelming experience, we were all ready to depart and get home to share our memories, through capturing our many photos and even through the creation of a blog by our famous fellow traveller and YouTuber, Phoebe, who appeared to capture every minute of our memorable trip!

Our spirits were dampened slightly by an unfortunate turn of events...snow! After using the outstanding public transport, we arrived at the airport to find that our flight was cancelled. Mr Bruce spent a gruelling five hours trying to negotiate and plan for our return home. Once we knew we were stuck in Berlin for an extra night, we took the bus and headed back into the city, in the snow. The next day, hoping for better weather conditions to get us home, we visited a Jewish Holocaust Memorial. We had a few minutes to remember and see how it was cleverly designed and the different reactions it had received.

After this, we rushed back to catch the flight to find it delayed! Our return journey home involved having to get to Cologne to get a connecting flight to Heathrow. Finally, reaching Cologne airport, we had fifteen minutes to race for the connecting flight... the heat was on! With a rather rude German man cutting the queue, and Mr Bruce having to intervene, we made it!

This Berlin visit was one of my favourite trips, not only did I learn so much about German History, it was also so much fun to be completely submerged into the culture and society of such a colourful city. Travelling on the impressive public transport and visiting numerous Christmas markets in different areas of the city, we had a direct experience with the German people and their incredibly diverse city.

Clemmie Lumsden, U6D



LIBRARY NEWS

The library has been a busy place this term with lots of our students using it for revision for mocks. Hopefully everybody has found the right revision method for themselves and are confident about the upcoming exams in the summer.

BATTLE of the Books 2018

On Tuesday 27th February, four students from the 3rd and 4th year travelled through the snow from Ripon Grammar School to Queen Mary's in Topcliffe for the annual Battle of the Books.

The quizmaster for this year's event was author Lucy Adlington, - who incidentally has a new book coming out (The Red Ribbon), and she was absolutely brilliant. She had the teams and audience in stitches with her ad-libbing, especially after she accidentally revealed the answer to one of the questions on the last round! The questions ranged from topics such as pets to colours to publisher logos and everybody enjoyed themselves. Winners of each round got a selection of books to share between themselves with the Ripon Grammar School team gaining this prize early on in the competition. The teams were carried through the competition with bowls of jelly beans and sweets as well as lots of tasty cake during the interval being offered up!

Audience participation was encouraged throughout the event with special questions designed for the adults and children and Mrs Dring even took home a prize!

Lots of fun was had by all and Battle of the Books will be hosted by Queen Mary's again next year after claiming the winner's prize on the night.

Miss Hutchinson



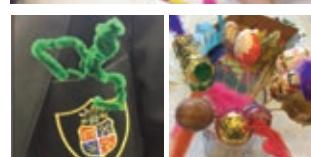
As we go to press RGS is in the middle of a reading week with a theme of Secret Agents and Detectives. Look out for news of this in the next edition of RGS News.



Harry Potter Night

Thursday 1st February was the official Harry Potter Night with a theme of Fantastic Beasts.

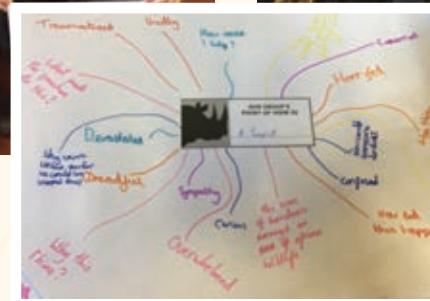
We took this theme and had several events to celebrate it. Creature Craft sessions ran over lunchtimes with the chance to decorate a dragon's egg or bend a Bowtruckle. The also had to describe the dragon that would emerge from their egg - here is one of my favourites from Felix Denby in 1C. The crafts carried on over the week and there were some fantastic results as you can see below.



Meanwhile, in another corner of the library, the 'What's Hatching?' competition could be found. There was a display of different beasts' eggs alongside clues. All students had to do was identify which beast had laid the eggs...easy! Correct entries went into a prize draw. Finally, a lunchtime 'pub' quiz on Fantastic Beasts was held in the library, with questions such as, "What is the fastest and smallest of all dragon species?" (Peruvian Vipertooth) or, "What is the only antidote to Basilisk venom?" (phoenix tears).

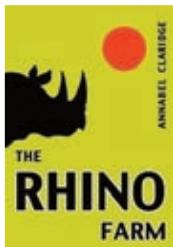
All in all we had fantastic and beastly fun!





SAVE THE RHINO

January saw Annabel Claridge return to the school for a geography and literacy day to talk to First Year students about rhino poaching and the terrible effects it is having on the wild rhino population.



Annabel is the author of 'The Rhino Farm', a thriller set in the world of rhino poaching in Africa, and is extremely knowledgeable about this topic. This was an opportunity to bring the First Years' Into Africa Geography module to life.

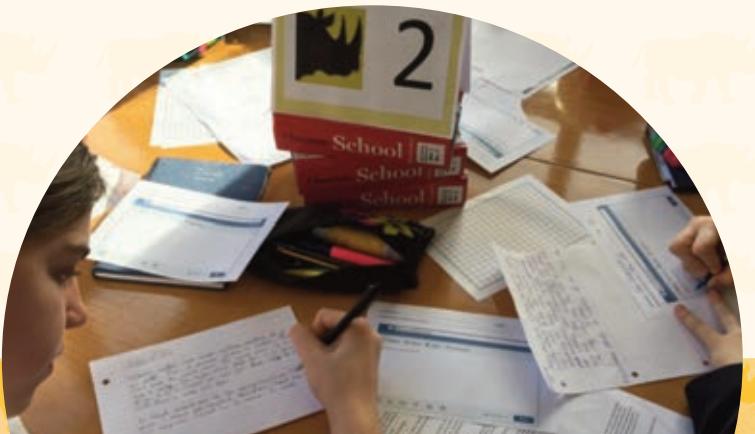
Annabel gave a fascinating presentation to the whole year group, bringing home to the audience the horrors of the industry, as well as the reasons poaching persists. She also read an extract from her book where a group of people witness rhino poaching first hand.

Following the presentation, each First Form class spent a lesson in the library thinking about the extract from different perspectives – the poachers, a vet treating the animals, a vulture circling the dying rhinos, a rhino calf whose mother has been killed or a visiting tourist witnessing the event. First of all, groups thought of relevant, emotive and descriptive vocabulary.

They then used their creative writing skills to come up with either a Facebook post or a Tweet about the event, from their particular perspective.

Once work was completed, the year group met up again in the main hall and certificates for Outstanding Work and Outstanding Effort were awarded in each form. Students were able to ask Annabel more questions and it was clear that the whole day had really made them think about the topic from many different angles.

Following the event, students were able to order signed copies of Annabel's book and many took up this opportunity. The day brought geography and literacy together and showed how each could enhance the other. Here are some of the posts created:



Facebook from a poacher's point of view



I am full of sorrow from the barbaric act I have just had to commit. It was disgusting, so much so that I couldn't bear to stay at the scene of the crime any longer and I was worried that the vultures would give me away. I had to commit this foul act though. My whole family will starve if I don't get the money from this act. I had to commit this barbaric act.

Twitter from the rhino calf's point of view



*I felt so alone. I still do. The plains are unwelcoming and scary. She's gone now – my mum. Those wretched killers left me horrified and empty. I would give the world to have her back.
#fightingforlife #savemymum*

Facebook from a tourist's point of view



Rhinos. Poachers. Death. Extinction.

You can help stop poaching, but will you? Rhinos are being killed for their horns. Some species only have three rhinos in but trust me, they're old! If we don't do anything they'll be gone. There'll be only three in every species, then two, then one, then NONE!

HELP NOW!

Twitter from Vet's point of view



If those vultures weren't there, Alice would've died unnoticed. Those people out there are merciless. Please help us stop poaching. Alice needs hope, we need hope, other animals need hope to put an end to poaching. #savetherhino

SPORT NEWS



Rugby

1st XV:

The team has had another season filled with great success and an unprecedented number of wins.

The 1st XV team has continued their excellent progress in the schools vase after beating Sir William Borlase's Grammar School, from Buckinghamshire, in their most recent match on December 6th. The team's strong performance has led them to the competition's semi final, which takes place on Tuesday 6th March, they will play Wirral Grammar School with a winning result meaning the team would compete for the title at the prestigious Twickenham Stadium.

The team also emerged victorious over Ermysted's Grammar School, beating them in the Yorkshire Cup semi final, reaching the final for the third year in a row.

U16 Rugby:

The team has followed in the footsteps of the 1st XV, defeating Harrogate Grammar School in the semi final of the Yorkshire Cup. The team will take on The Crossley Heath School on a as yet confirmed date, where they are hopeful for another victory.

Across the school, excellent teamwork has been seen over the teams of all ages.



The U12s, U13s, U14s and U15s have had a notably successful season, with excellent progress being seen from players across all year groups. There are also hopes that the White Rose Series Finals will be reached later on in the season.

U18 Yorkshire Carnegie Rugby & Representative Rugby

Well done to both Ted Wainwright and James Willis who have both played for the Yorkshire Carnegie U18 academy side taking on the likes of Newcastle Falcons and Sale Sharks, a fantastic achievement for both players. Oliver Williams has been selected to play for Yorkshire U17s whilst Oscar Lees, Toby Boyce and Will Barrett have begun their journey with Yorkshire Carnegie after they have been selected to be part of the U15 academy set up.



More Success for RGS VX-ers

This term several RGS students who are members of Ripon VX Club successfully attended trials for the England VX Squad, and now look forward to their first training session with the National Squads.

The Ripon VX Club, which is hosted at Ripon Grammar School, is the biggest VX Club in the world and is still the fastest-growing. From the time the club started it has been well attended by RGS students, several of whom have gone on to major success in the sport.



This term Chloe Stringwell, Jude Grimmer, Beth Pritchard and Rebecca Purl were among the Ripon VX Club players invited to attend the trials. Also attending the trials, to help and support, were established squad members. These included RGS students Joe Willis, who has already represented England Youth, Oliver Stocks, who has enjoyed great success in the singles (V2) version of the sport, and Jhapin 'Shahi who is looking forward to competing in the V2 World Cup in India next year.

Ripon Grammar School, as the National Centre of Excellence for VX, is not only home to the Ripon VX Club but also to the England National Squad. Chloe, Jude, Beth and Rebecca therefore feel very much at home. The standard gets ever higher in VX and selection is certainly not a foregone conclusion as several people do not make the grade at the trials. All four of the RGS players, however, were delighted to be successful and can now look forward to improving even further as they attend the training sessions for the National Programme which runs Youth, Senior and Masters squads.

Mrs Mackenzie



Netball

Amy Crompton (Year 11) and Amy Mackenzie (Year 12) have both passed their 'C' Award Netball Umpire written test.

They are being mentored for the practical element by National 'A' Award umpire, Emma Hayter.

Mrs Mackenzie, who recently passed the 'A' Umpire written exam, said 'It is so good to see students getting involved with different aspects of the game – playing, coaching and officiating – and it looks great on a CV when applying for jobs or university places. Well done girls!'



Cross Country



It has been another highly successful individual cross country season with eleven RGS students qualifying to run for North Yorkshire.

The pick of the bunch has to be fourth form student Mena Scatchard who was crowned North Yorkshire Champion at the county championships in January and will head to the National finals to be held in Leeds in March as the counties leading runner. A special mention must also go to Archie Bordewich who finished third at the recent Northern Counties championships where North Yorkshire take on the best from Northumberland, Cumbria and Durham.

Girls' Cricket

The hard work of the team has not gone unnoticed, as their efforts have been visible in their latest matches.



The U13s girls' team has shown excellent progress and great success over the previous weeks, with match victories resulting in the team being just one game away from playing at Headingley's renowned cricket ground. The match resulted in the girls drawing in the play off game, so unfortunately missed out on wickets lost. The team spirit has been evident, and has really driven the team's recent progress. The girls are looking forward to future games, where yet more favourable results are hoped to be attained.

Football

U18s

The team is showing yet more excellent progress, with high hopes of continued success in future.

For the first time ever, the U18s team entered the North Yorkshire League, but unfortunately faced some very tough competition, and were subsequently beaten. Sadly, this means that they will not progress to the playoffs, however the team remains a serious competitor in the area cup, where they shall play against King James' School the week commencing on 5 March.

U16s

The U16s football teams were victorious in their previous matches, and have successfully reached the quarterfinal of the County Cup and area cups, a very exciting time for all the team. Their focus and determination has been evident in securing their recent victories, which is hoped to again be emulated in the future.

U12s, U13s & U15s

The U12s, U13s, U14s and U15s have also showed good progress over the past few months, both as teams but also as individual players. The school is keen to watch their further development, and is hopeful for large future achievements.

North Yorkshire Trials

I want to say thank you to Mr Milner for choosing me to go on trial at Rossett Sports Centre for North Yorkshire. There were 60 boys at the trial for two weeks and I managed to be selected with 13 other boys to be represent the North Yorkshire FA Harrogate and Craven District. We played our first match on the 27th of January against Hull City and I was chosen to be captain for the match. We won 6 – 5.

Isaac Henson, 1B





JACK LAUGHER

Whilst Thursday, 1 March was a snow day for most students, a group of lucky boarders met with Olympic Gold Medallist, Jack Laugher, who returned to RGS for the first time since leaving school in 2012.

The boys were able to see Jack's array of medals and take part in an impromptu diving lesson led by the champion.

Year 8 pupil Oscar Groundwater, himself a keen diver who trains at Harrogate Diving Club where Jack's career first began, was interviewed with Jack in a Question and Answer session and then dived alongside his hero.

The day was organised by 'npower' – the official sponsor of Team England in next month's Commonwealth Games which are to be held in Australia. Jack will be hoping to defend his two Commonwealth titles. Npower's campaign recognises and appreciates the support of family, friends and school in helping an elite athlete achieve their full potential.

During the day Jack performed numerous telephone interviews, countless selfies, signed autographs and was generally the affable, amiable and unassuming young man he was in his school days. His fame has certainly not gone to his head; he simply could not have been more accommodating.

Interviews were also held with some of Jack's teachers. Sadly, Miss Gilfillan was snowed in and could not make the photo-shoot but she remarked that 'Having Jack in our A Level PE group was like having a Sports Psychology Lesson Plan written for you.'

He gave us all an insight into the strains and stresses of being an elite athlete and the coping mechanisms that are put in place. It is also my claim to fame, having taught an Olympic gold medallist'

Dr Grime has followed Jack's career from the early days when Jack had to leave his Chemistry lessons ten minutes early to run for the bus to take him to training! He was delighted to take a selfie with his student but Jack insisted on wearing the gold medal himself!



Mr Auger who taught Jack maths but was also responsible alongside Jack's mentor, Miss Gilfillan, for creating a doable timetable for an athlete who travelled to five different countries in as many weeks. He said 'Schools should be about students being able to realise their aspirations; they should be able to keep students' options open and provide a network of support. In Jack's case, he was able to balance the dedication to his diving with his school work - he was always aware that there are no guarantees in sport and as such he knew he had to keep his options open. If a student has the right attitude (and clearly Jack did) then a school and the teachers can adapt and support accordingly. It is "give and take" but it can work for anyone with the right approach.'

Last, but certainly not least, Jack met with his 'second grandmother' Sylvia Grice, who although not a member of staff at RGS, has certainly taught the majority of Ripon students to swim, including Jack, who she reduced on national television to being a 'little tinker' as a three year old as he spent more time under the water swimming through people's legs than on the surface!

Jack is still close to his childhood friends – Jack Lale, Stephen Laws, Angus Johnston, Chris Ringrose and Will Johnson who all add to the network of support that is Team Jack.

Everyone at RGS wishes Jack the very best of luck on the Gold Coast next month.

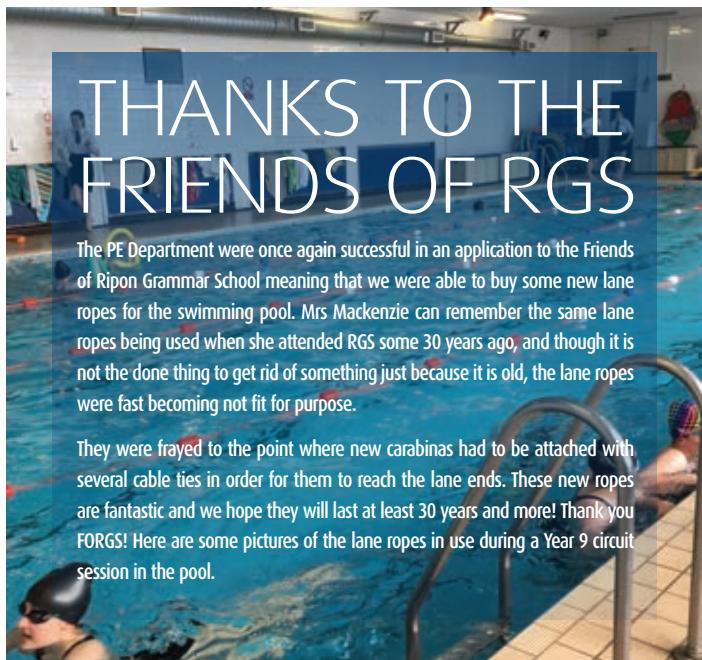
Mrs Mackenzie, PE Department

Swimming

The team continues to develop and flourish in competitions, emerging victorious with incredible results.

The swimming team has gone from strength to strength as they have achieved a plethora of victories, notably beating Ashville College of Harrogate, Harrogate Ladies' College, GSAL and St Peters School in York over the past few months.

Team members have all displayed impressive performances throughout recent competitions, with their successes resulting in many wins. The team is hoping to enter the National Schools competition next year, with the aim of reaching victories on a national level.



Edinburgh International Swim Meet



I recently competed in The Edinburgh International Swim Meet, incorporating the 2018 British Swimming Championships, which took place at the Royal Commonwealth Pool, Edinburgh from 1-4 March. The event attracted a top-class field including British Swimming's elite senior and junior athletes. Competitors also travelled from Spain, Nepal, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Israel, Netherlands and India to compete at this prestigious event. I qualified for four events: 400m individual medley, 200m Butterfly, 50m Breaststroke and 50m Butterfly. Whilst racing I competed against Olympians, World Champions and British Champions, including Adam Peaty, Siobhan-Marie O'Connor, James Guy and Hannah Miley.

My highlight of the meet was qualifying for the 200m Butterfly junior final, this was an amazing achievement and one that I hope will qualify me for the British Summer Nationals in July.

Christa Wilson, 4E

SPORTS AWARDS EVENING

The Physical Education Department is very excited to announce its forthcoming Sports Awards Evening which will take place towards the end of the summer term.

The focus of the evening will be to celebrate and reward the sporting prowess and excellence of our teams and individuals. In order to fund this event we would be grateful for any donation – either financial or a raffle prize – to be handed into reception for the attention of Mrs H Mackenzie.

Details of the evening will be advised as soon as possible.

HOUSE SPORT

House Swimming

The House swimming this year started with a splash as Porteus, Hutton, De Grey and School competed for the 2018 house swimming champion.

The atmosphere in the pool was immense as the Year 7s started their first race. We soon went through the one length of freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly and on to the two-length races.

When the start whistle went for the Fourth Year boys freestyle race not all competitors were there. De Grey's swimmer hadn't got to the start..... but not to fear, junior House captain Benedict was there. He dived into his lane with a huge splash, showering the teachers, and chased down the other swimmers who were already at half way. The cheering and support from all students participating was spectacular and deafening and some Houses even had their own chants. When it was time for the relays, it was incredible that there were so many people ready to represent their Houses.

In the end, after a competitive two periods, School came in fourth with 550 points, De Grey were third with 600 points, Hutton were second with 900 and Porteus came first with 1000 House points.

House Rock Climbing

House rock climbing was a competitive but friendly sporting House event where all ages could take part and try to gain points for their House.

There were three walls [easy, medium and hard], that everyone had to attempt to complete. Everyone was buzzing with excitement with the wonderful thought of being the winners of this popular event.

Darcy Harper, 1A, writes: "The atmosphere was competitive but everyone knew that there were team-mates to support them. Everyone overcame a challenge and felt a wave of triumph as they completed each wall. As everyone left the Sports Hall they were thinking 'Who will win'?"

Lily Wainwright, 1C, writes: "As the competition began you could sense the adrenaline in everyone. We were all ready to be victorious and to win those all-important points for our House. With some more experienced climbers, and some not so experienced!, we were all willing to try our best. Once the event had finished, everyone ached and was sore but sighed with the relief of overcoming a challenge".

Overall this House event was a great experience for all ages. It was packed with excitement and team work, from the B-layers to the climbers and everyone had a part to do. They all went home with a feeling of achievement.

Results

		Porteus	School	De Grey	Hutton
House Climbing	Junior	200	150	100	50
House Climbing	Inter	200	0	0	150

Overall House points

Porteus
3850

School
2450

De Grey
2800

Hutton
2850



Music News

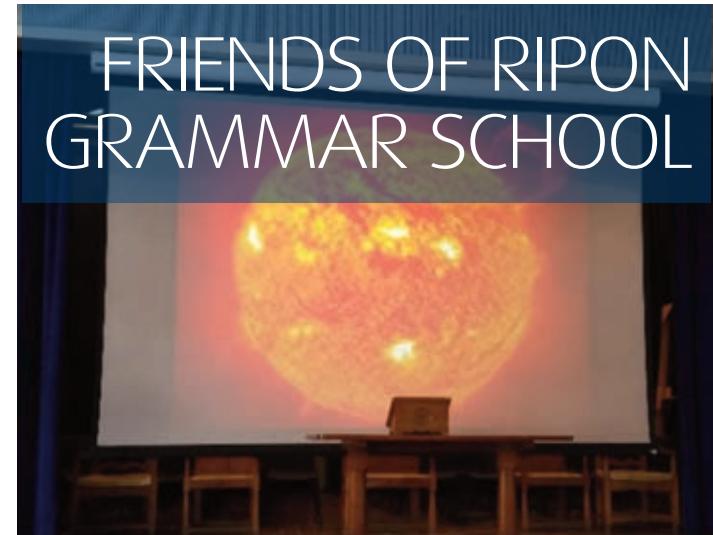
This term the music department has been focusing on rehearsals for this year's school musical, *Billy Elliot*, as well as finalising GCSE and A level coursework and recitals.

However, the department has also been busy preparing for the exciting opportunity to record our very own album of Christmas music, kindly funded by the Friends of RGS. The school choirs will record the album over the course of three evenings in the magnificent surroundings of Ripon Cathedral, and the opportunity will also be taken to formally record Mr Pearman's specially commissioned retirement piece, 'God's Grandeur'.

We would also like to thank the Friends of RGS for providing the funds to sponsor tuition for beginner violinists Inga Nowicka, Arabella Hinde and Finn Hutchinson. We are extremely grateful that our students have been provided with the opportunity to learn a new instrument and we hope that this is the start of a lifelong enjoyment of music for Finn, Arabella and Inga.

In addition to the success of our current students, the department has also been lucky enough to benefit from the return of a former student as a member of staff this term. Old Riponian, Tilly Fallows, has recently joined the music staff and is currently working as a technician and administrator to help Mr Seymour and Mrs Morpeth. Tilly studies Music and Sound Recording at the University of York on top of her job at RGS. We are delighted to welcome her back to the school as a valuable member of the department.

Izzy Bremner, L6E



It's all change at the Parents' Association. At an EGM in January the Parents' Association began a new era as the Friends of Ripon Grammar School.

With a change of constitution came the change of name to Friends which represents an opening up of the committee to anybody with a connection to the school who share our aim of enhancing the educational experience of children within the school. So, if as a busy parent you can't spare the time to join the committee but you have an active grandparent who can, we would love to hear from them, email Tracy on friends@ripongrammar.com

With this change we would like to thank Julia Whitham, who stood down as our Chair. Julia has worked tirelessly for the PA for many years, with the culmination last summer of the hugely successful masked ball, she has left the Friends of RGS with an unprecedented bank balance.

Much of this money has been allocated to school with purchases so far in 2018 including the new screen and projector in the main hall, costumes and props for the *Billy Elliot* production, fitness balls and swimming pool lane ropes, much needed improvements to the lighting area on the stage and a second defibrillator to be kept in the main school building.

The new screen and projector was put to good use by the wonderful astronomy talks given by Mr Barker in January. These talks are always a sell out and we are very grateful to Mr Barker for his continued support in offering these talks, utilising the new screen made the presentation even more spectacular.

We are currently working hard gathering prizes and selling tickets to make this year's Grand Prize Draw entitled "Anything Goes!" a huge success. I hope you can support this raffle by donating a prize to be included in one of our themed hampers, we also need you to buy or sell on the tickets.

Please don't forget to return your stubs and money along with unsold tickets as soon as possible so that we have the chance to sell them on to someone else.

Finally, I would like to thank the parents on the Friends of RGS committee for their hard work organising events, providing refreshments and the parents who provide us with the delicious baking. I would also like to thank all the busy parents who have found time to support our events, we can't provide school with the funds they need for those extras that benefit all our children without your continued support.

Tracy Butterfield, Chair

FRIENDS OF RGS 200 CLUB WINNERS 2017/18

September:	1st	103 Leanne Marris	2nd	126 Emily Butterill
October:	1st	26 Alison Palmer	2nd	25 Nicholas Mountain
November:	1st	123 Simon Gibson	2nd	212 Richard Houseman
December:	1st	17 Ele Hartas	2nd	34 Heather Glegg
January:	1st	211 Paula Withington	2nd	177 James Bradley

1st prize is £50 and the 2nd prize is £25, to join the 200 Club please email Eleanor the 200 Club administrator on eleanor.hartas@hotmail.co.uk, you could be on the list of winners next time.



VOLUNTEERING

Blue Cross Volunteering

I started volunteering for Blue Cross in Thirsk in May 2017. I didn't know this at the time, but starting volunteering there was one of the best things that have ever happened to me.

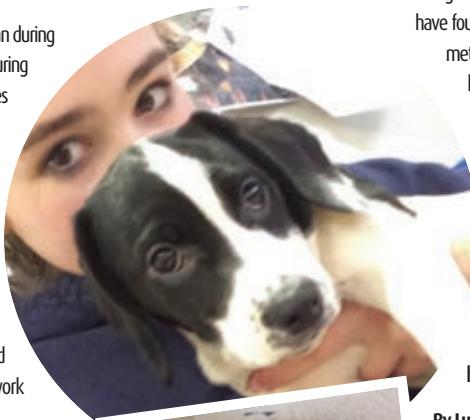
All volunteers start at the centre working with the cats, but gradually progress to working with the dogs if they would prefer. The Cattery can hold around twenty cats at one time, with a further three blocks allocated across the site, able to hold around ten more cats and kittens.

Kennels can hold a similar number of dogs, along with ten more kennels set in other blocks across the site. I work in kennels more than the cattery, as there are two other volunteers that I work with who tend to do more work with the cats than the dogs.

Over my time working at Blue Cross I have said farewell to some animals who have touched my heart in so many different ways, this includes a gorgeous cocker spaniel, ex-gun dog, Jasper. Recently, Blue Cross' Head Office came down to the centre and interviewed a few different volunteers. We each had to choose one of the animals that we worked with to be interviewed with. I chose Jasper, one of our photos is below. The interview was aimed to encourage more people to volunteer their time to Blue Cross, and show just how much work goes into Blue Cross behind the scenes.

As well as volunteering every Sunday, I also volunteer as much as I can during the holidays. This has shown me how different life at the centre is during the week compared to on a weekend. Every Tuesday the vet comes out to do routine health checks on the animals, and I have followed him and the centre's veterinary supervisor, Amy, around, gaining a little bit of veterinary work experience in the process.

On 13th January, I was invited down to a Blue Cross Centre in Rolleston in Nottinghamshire, which focuses on horses, but does have a small Cattery too, which is run purely by the hard work and dedication of volunteers. While I was there, I was shown around by one of the centre's grooms, Verity. The experience was a lot of fun and extremely interesting, especially to learn how different centres work compared to what I am used to.



ENRICHMENT

During Enrichment on a Wednesday afternoon, Sixth Form students at Ripon Grammar School are allowed to choose from a variety of activities. One of which is to volunteer somewhere in Ripon.

We have the choice to go to a care home, primary school or Ripon Hospital. This is a great opportunity because as well as being able to help the local community, we also develop our confidence and experience in these areas which will help us in our everyday lives.

Seven students go to the Sunnyfield Lodge care home on Fennell Street, Ripon. Sunnyfield Lodge is an additional care home which has 40 apartments, allowing the elderly residents to live independently, while also having a strong community to support them and medical care when it is needed. A community environment is created by regular visits from a vicar from Ripon, a hair salon which will soon be opening in the home, and students and carers coming in to speak to the residents amongst other activities. Some of our roles include making tea and coffee for the residents, speaking to them about their lives and interests, and participating in or planning activities such as quizzes which are put on in the afternoon. We all enjoy the experience because we have fun speaking to the elderly residents about their lives and experiences while also supporting a great cause.

Some other students volunteer their time at Ripon Hospital for two hours every week. The hospital has two wards; the Minor Injuries Unit and the Trinity ward, which provides palliative care and rehabilitation. This ward can be very useful for patients who would like to stay near Ripon, which is often where they live, for care and recovery. Here, they comfort and speak to patients who have recently been ill in order to occupy their time while in the hospital and aid them in the recovery process. While the hospital does have internet and television access, talking to students is not just a way to spend the time while recovering. It can also have positive psychological effects for the patients, particularly those who don't have family and friends who visit them regularly.

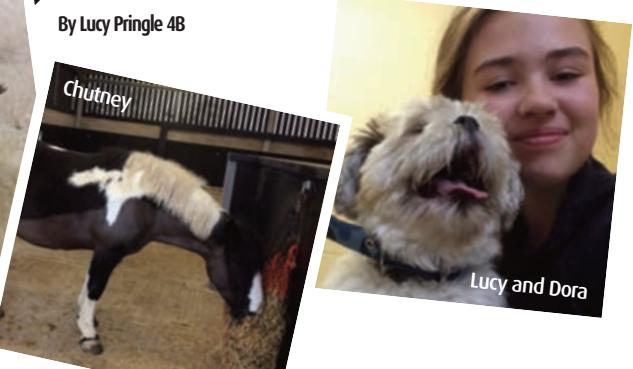
Other students spend time reading with four to ten year old pupils at primary schools around Ripon. They could have the students read to them in a one-to-one session, which helps to develop their pronunciation of more difficult words and give them the opportunity to have individual help if their teachers don't have time. Other students have them read out plays in groups. This is particularly useful because it boosts their confidence in speaking in front of other people, while also improving their reading skills.

Eve Ison, L6D

Volunteering has really brought the best in me. Without Blue Cross, I don't think I would ever have found out how big my passion for working with animals was. I also wouldn't have met some of the most amazing people who share the same passion as I do, who have helped me discover what it really means to be me. People keep asking me what I want to do for a career in the future, and before Blue Cross I would never be able to come up with an answer that made an awful lot of sense, but since volunteering, I have realised that no matter what career I choose, I know it will be a path that is filled with animals, they are my passion, and I could never give that passion up.

For more information about the article Blue Cross released, visit: www.bluecross.org.uk/story/meet-people-giving-their-christmas-holidays-help-homeless-pets or meet the people giving up the holidays for homeless pets.

By Lucy Pringle 4B



Lucy and Dora

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We helped here

When both the junior and intermediate girls (above) reached the finals of the National Cross Country Cup in Merseyside the Activities Fund helped to pay for the costs of attending.

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PLEASE COMPLETE THE DONATION FORM OVERLEAF & RETURN TO THE SCHOOL

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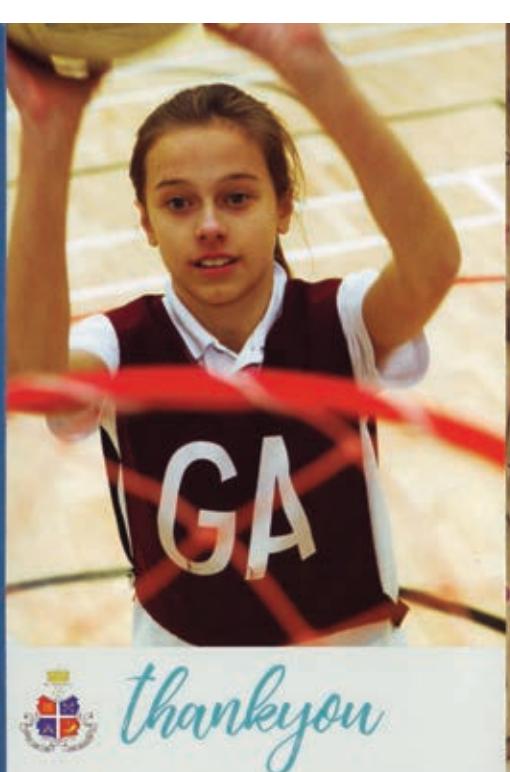
Please return to The Bursar, Ripon Grammar School, Clotherholme Road, Ripon HG4 2SG

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thankyou

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Ripon Grammar School
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