

## Ski Trip to Alpendorf

Seventy students and six teachers went to Alpendorf in Austria for the annual ski trip during the February half term.

## Visit to Betty's Cookery School

What could be better than a bread-making course at Betty's cookery school in Harrogate?

## RGS Library

- Reading Really Is A Pleasure
- Inspiration from Cathy MacPhail
- Harrogate District Battle of the Books 2016
- Literacy is Everywhere
- Exploding toffee crisps, cutting off fingers and eating brains!

# RGS News

Issue 43 Spring 2016



*Katie & Sophie Veitch and fellow volunteer in Dhrangadhra, India*



# Welcome...

Dear Parents,

I hope this edition of the RGS News finds you well and looking forward to the Easter break. This has been a particularly intensive term, being very short, but it has been an incredibly productive one.



Mocks have taken place for fifth and sixth form students which suggest overall a feeling of optimism, although there is still a great deal of revision needing to be undertaken by these students.

Our recent highlight was undoubtedly the musical production of 'Anything Goes', under the leadership of our new director of music, Mr Seymour, ably assisted by Mrs Morpeth. It was an extremely enjoyable production, performed in front of very good audiences on each night.

It has been a busy time interviewing the school officers for the forthcoming academic year; this process is almost complete. As soon as it is finalised I will let you know the outcome. There has been a lot of interest in this and there is no doubt that there is, once again, a very strong field.

I am very pleased that, following the admissions process for entry into the school at first, third and sixth form, the school will be full for September. There has been very strong interest at all levels, particularly first and sixth form, and, in these times of financial challenge, it is vital that the school is as full as it possibly can be. We are full in next year's first form, have offered thirteen places to students in the third form for September and received well over one hundred applications for sixth form places.

I will be writing an end of term letter to supplement this edition of the RGS News, which I hope you will find useful and informative.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Easter break and to thank you for all your support of the school and its staff. I look forward to seeing you in the summer term.

Yours sincerely



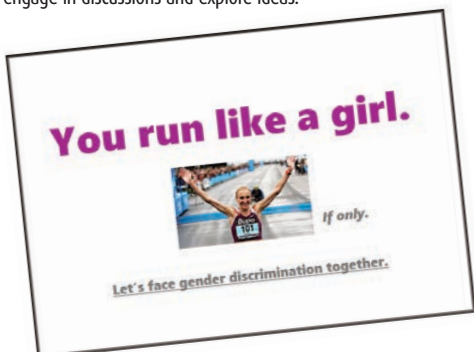
M L Pearman  
(Headmaster)

## Feminist Society

The Feminist Society within school is a group which aims to raise awareness about gender inequality issues. It consists of a wide range of students from lower school up to sixth form.

The Feminist Society meets weekly to discuss issues such as the gender pay gap, school uniform and masculinity. Discussions are always aimed to engage with both sides of the argument and to acknowledge all points of view. Within school we hosted an assembly to mark International Women's Day in March and we are also launching a poster campaign to try to tackle sexism within schools. The Feminist Society is first and foremost a positive group, aimed at raising awareness of issues both locally and internationally. It's also an academic pursuit, where members can share ideas, news articles and other points of interest with likeminded individuals. Please do not hesitate to contact me or other members of the group as we are always keen to engage in discussions and explore ideas.

Julia Atherley, U6F



## Fifth year Art Trip to York



Having been given the theme for this year's GCSE Art exam, which is "Past, Present and/or Future", the fifth year art students and teachers set out to York for the day to collect primary source material for the forthcoming exam.

Our first stop of the day was The National Railway Museum, which tells the story of rail transport in Britain and its impact on society. The theme for this year's exams fitted perfectly with the museum displaying both the old and the new and it provided an opportunity to take interesting photos of a variety of things such as close-ups of the old trains, reflections and the bright contrasting beams of the roof support.

We then walked to the centre of the beautiful city of York, occasionally stopping along the way to take photos before splitting up into smaller groups to explore the city centre. Here we were able to take pictures which fit with our own ideas and interpretations on the theme to include topics like cityscapes, street scenes, buildings and portraiture. York proved to be the perfect venue to explore the topic for our exam with its bustling streets, including the historic Shambles, sitting alongside newer buildings which provided a strong contrast between the past and the present.

We then took a walk along the picturesque city walls which offer panoramic views over the city, including the majestic York Minster. Inside the Minster itself were many more opportunities to take photos of the grand pillars and the undeniably breath-taking stained glass windows that reflected colour onto the surface of the floors and walls. After a quick visual sketch of the Minster we travelled to the Schoolhouse Gallery museum, the final destination of our trip. There we were able to view an art exhibition offering a variety of paintings and pottery which added another dimension to our studies.

Overall, the art trip was incredibly useful; it gave us the opportunity to broaden our ideas for the exam outside of the classroom and allowed us to collect visual material to contribute to the designs for our own final piece. An informative and enjoyable day was had by staff and pupils alike.

Mhairi Ellis, 5C



# Berlin Upper Sixth History Trip 2016



**On the 7th January 2016 a group of upper-sixth history students, accompanied by four members of staff, flew out of Liverpool Airport and arrived in Berlin, where it was -7 degrees centigrade and the ground was covered in snow. Following our arrival at the youth hostel, we prepared for our first outing to the Reichstag (German Parliament building), which offered little respite from the cold but had a beautiful view over the city skyline. It was here that we explored the evolution of Germany's governmental system as we walked round the spiralling corridor, admiring the view of famous landmarks through the glass walls.**

The following morning we took the underground to the Topography of Terror exhibition which offered a detailed history of the persecution of Jews and other minority groups in Germany. After a brisk walk through the streets, passing Checkpoint Charlie on the way where we were greeted by a friendly soldier, we arrived at the striking Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. The imposing stone structures were a reminder of the suffering of the Jews, based on the design of a Czech graveyard and were equally as powerful. That afternoon we travelled across to the entrance to the Berlin Underground complex where we embarked on a tour of the bunkers that were used to shelter citizens. It was here that we discovered just how much of the city was based underground and how the lives of ordinary Germans were affected during the war. That evening at the hotel we enjoyed a quiz organised by the teachers that brought out our more competitive natures, testing the knowledge we had learned that day and other essential information about popular culture.

On Saturday morning we left the hostel early, slightly better adjusted to the colder temperatures than when we arrived, and spent a few hours at the German History Museum where we were able to browse the extensive timeline of history at our leisure. We then set off on foot past the beautiful Berlin Cathedral by the river to get to the underground station where we caught a train out of the city. We then visited the House of the Wannsee Conference where plans for the systematic murder of Jews were discussed in 1942. Our tour guide had an impressive knowledge of how anti-Semitism developed in Germany combined with passion and enthusiasm, making this a very enjoyable and informative visit that was a highlight of the trip for many. We then returned to the centre of Berlin and followed Mr Bruce with trepidation as he led us to his favourite cinema for our evening activity. After walking down a strangely quiet alleyway we emerged in a colourful courtyard decorated with graffiti and fairy lights where we entered the cinema through the back door of a warehouse to watch the film 'Steve Jobs.'

The next day began on a more serious note as we travelled by train to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Museum. The mood was really set as we explored the remains of the camp in the crisp morning air. It was a truly moving part of the trip as we quietly walked around the barracks and gas chambers, realising the extent of the suffering of the individuals who experienced life in this camp. To explore this further we embarked on a tour at the architecturally fascinating Jewish Museum where we learnt about the lives of key Jewish figures in history which even included an aspect of physics for the group who discussed the impact of Einstein's theories in the science community. Later in the evening after experiencing a few minor difficulties with navigation we arrived at the Hard Rock Café for our final evening meal of the trip to end it on a more positive note following the emotional challenges of the day. The whole group had a three course meal in a very relaxed setting before we returned to the hotel. The highlight of the evening was a heated teacher vs student game of pool that really made the last night special.

On our final morning in Berlin we took a brief tour of the Olympic Stadium that was built under Hitler's orders in 1936, finding a stunning gold plated chapel and luxury changing rooms under the pitch that had since been added. We then went back to the airport and returned to England in the early evening, grateful to be back in a slightly warmer country.

Overall it was a fantastic trip that gave us a real breadth of knowledge to take home as well as good memories of our time relaxing and enjoying the city. We would like to thank all the teachers who made this trip possible as it was an enriching experience that has helped immensely with our study of German history for our A2 coursework.

**Helena Aksamit-Hollingworth, U6D**



# Project Trust

**Over half term, I went to visit my sister, Sophie, in Dhrangadhra, India, where she is currently working as a Project Trust volunteer. She left RGS last year.**

This was an amazing opportunity both to be able to see Sophie and to experience some Indian culture. Walking into Dhrangadhra (a small, rural town in the North Eastern state of Gujarat) we were confronted with a chaotic mixture of unfamiliar sights and smells, with auto-rickshaws, cars and cows competing for space in roads clogged with people, rubbish and roadside stalls. At first, this chaos, coupled with the inevitable staring that we attracted as foreigners, was

overwhelming but we soon got used to it and managed to start appreciating the hidden system and order to the town, as well as its colourful vibrancy.

Sophie is based at Srirajni English-medium School, where she teaches a range of subjects to children aged between nine and thirteen. Sophie and her fellow volunteer, Katie, live and work

around the leafy courtyard of Dhrangadhra's old palace. Whilst we were there, we were able to see rehearsals for the school's annual Founders' Day, for which Sophie wrote and directed a play based around promoting girls' education. Other plays dealt with the issues of corruption and religious tolerance, as well as light-hearted songs and a gymnastics display culminating in the children jumping through a fire hoop!

Our trip came to an end in saying goodbye to Sophie and heading to Mumbai for a few days. The bustling metropolis is truly the city of contrast, with slums and roadside shacks hugging enormous skyscrapers and technology surrounding the hand washing of the city's clothes at the Dhobi Ghats.

Overall, the trip was a fantastic opportunity to see my sister, be able to have more of an idea of what her life there is like and what a gap year can possibly entail. I was also able to gain an insight into Indian culture and the enormous difference between it and my life here, which was an incredibly valuable experience.

**Katie Veitch, L6B**



# International Baccalaureate



**Molly Ireland, who left RGS at the end of her fifth year in 2015, is currently studying for the International Baccalaureate at United World College of the Adriatic in the Italian town of Trieste.**

United World College is an organisation that runs fifteen international sixth form colleges on five of the world's continents. Attracting students from all around the world, UWC's ethos is to "use education as a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future."

Living in such a multicultural environment is the highlight of UWC for Molly: she said that "UWC is so good just because it's really international and multicultural: everyone brings something different to the school and it's really nice being part of loads of different cultures."

Molly began the application process in 2014, which involved submitting an online application as well as gaining references from a community leader and a teacher. She then went for interviews at the Welsh branch of UWC, after which forty-five of the three hundred British applicants were given places at colleges around the world.

UWC students all take the International Baccalaureate instead of A-Levels, giving the opportunity to study a broader curriculum and one which allows students, as Molly says, "to see things from a different perspective: there's this massive focus on the world as a whole." Molly studies history, maths and environmental systems at standard level, and English literature, philosophy and Italian at higher level.

She urges RGS students interested in UWC to research it and consider sending an application, stressing that they shouldn't feel barred from it by academic standards, because UWC is less interested in that than personality and commitment to their ideals of peace, sustainability and international cooperation. United World College seems to be a truly unique and eye-opening experience, and one that Molly is both enjoying and benefiting from hugely.

**Katie Veitch, L6B**



# HOUSE REPORT FOR EASTER TERM

Although this term is short I am delighted to have been able to fit a host of different activities into our well established House System. For the first time ever we ran a Senior House Water Polo event which was a huge success and I hope you enjoy reading the report. The results of other activities were as follows:

## SWIMMING SPORTS RESULTS 2015

### JUNIOR GIRLS

**HUTTON 98**

**PORTEUS 90**

**SCHOOL 82**

**DEGREY 72**

### JUNIOR BOYS

**HUTTON 84**

**SCHOOL 77**

**DEGREY 68**

**PORTEUS 51**

### JUNIOR COMBINED

**HUTTON 182**

**SCHOOL 159**

**PORTEUS 141**

**DEGREY 140**

### INTERMEDIATE GIRLS

**DEGREY 85**

**SCHOOL 84**

**HUTTON 68**

**PORTEUS 66**

### INTERMEDIATE BOYS

**DEGREY 74**

**HUTTON 67**

**SCHOOL 66**

**PORTEUS 63**

### INTERMEDIATE COMBINED

**DEGREY 159**

**SCHOOL 150**

**HUTTON 135**

**PORTEUS 129**

## INTERMEDIATE HOUSE NETBALL

Despite School's best efforts, ably led by Molly Reed, it was a competition that Hutton were never going to lose. Displaying some superb skill in both defence and attack, as well as great accuracy in the shooting circle, Sophie Richardson led her team to a 14 - 0 victory.

## INTERMEDIATE HOUSE NETBALL RESULTS 2016

**1ST HUTTON 200pts**

**2ND SCHOOL 150pts**

**DEGREY AND PORTEUS Opts**

## ROCK CLIMBING

This is always a popular event as it appeals to so many students. Two students from every year group represent their house and attempt different routes up the wall as depicted by Mr Mollard, our climbing expert. It is always a pleasure to see students representing their houses and getting involved in an activity when ordinarily they might not participate in extra-curricular competitions. The sixth formers climbed during their enrichment session in the afternoon followed by all other year groups after school. My thanks to Alex the GAP student and Miss Bennett for helping out with the event, and of course Mr Mollard, without whom I would not be able to hold this House Competition. The results are as follows:

### JUNIOR

**DEGREY 790 200**

**HUTTON 650 150**

**SCHOOL 650 150**

**PORTEUS 490 100**

### INTERMEDIATE

**PORTEUS 170 200**

**HUTTON 160 150**

**DEGREY 100 100**

**SCHOOL 0 0**

### SENIOR

**HUTTON 800 200**

**SCHOOL 800 200**

**PORTEUS 400 100**

**DEGREY 200 50**



# House MasterChef

Congratulations to all students who took part in Senior House Masterchef. Thanks to Mrs Solden for hosting the event and to the other two judges – Mrs Hartas from the Parents’ Association and Mrs Laugher, a Product Development Manager for Goldenfry Foods. The delights were also sampled by a very hungry Mr Auger, Mr Milner and myself – a perk of the job as Head of the House System!

The standard was once again very high and Mrs Laugher remarked what a pleasure it was to be entertained by such an enthusiastic group of young people.

Each house has to produce a starter, a main course and a dessert and these are awarded equal points for presentation, preparation and taste.

The dishes on offer were:

## HUTTON

**STARTER – CURRIED PARSNIP SOUP**

**MAIN COURSE – SWORDFISH STEAK WITH SOY SAUCE, GINGER AND CHILLI**

**DESSERT – OREO CHOCOLATE BROWNIES**

## PORTEUS

**STARTER – INDIAN STUFFED PEPPERS WITH A MANGO LASSI**

**MAIN COURSE – CHICKEN MASALA WITH CUCUMBER RAITA AND HOMEMADE CHAPATI**

**DESSERT – INDIAN RICE PUDDING WITH POACHED PEARS**

## SCHOOL

**STARTER – TAPAS**

**MAIN COURSE – LASAGNE**

**DESSERT – HONEY CHEESECAKE AND BLACK FOREST GATEAU**



And the final scores were:

<b>PORTEUS</b>	<b>235</b>
<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>201</b>
<b>HUTTON</b>	<b>172</b>

This event just gets better and better and I am delighted to have introduced external judges which adds further kudos to the occasion. I am already looking forward to the three Masterchef events next year.

Towards the end of this term the students from first to fourth form will play Cup and Plate matches in hockey, netball, rugby and football during their Games lessons – this enables every single student in first to fourth form to represent their house.

## TOTAL AT THE END OF THE CHRISTMAS TERM

<b>DEGREY</b>	<b>3600</b>
<b>HUTTON</b>	<b>3450</b>
<b>PORTEUS</b>	<b>3300</b>
<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>2850</b>

A busy term awaits and with three houses all within 150 points of each other there is all to play for.

Mrs Mackenzie

# House Water-Polo Report

**Water-polo is becoming an increasingly popular option in both Year 11 games and 6th form enrichment sessions, so I decided to trial a Senior House Water-polo competition. The idea was readily received and the Heads of House and House Captains who had no trouble in filling their team places.**

With five players per team allowed in the water at any one time, School House arrived with enough for two full teams plus subs! They also brought about a dozen spectators which added to the atmosphere!

The matches were played over two after school sessions. Hutton lost all their matches, whilst School managed to defeat Porteus 1 – 0 and also hold Degrey to a 2 – 2 draw.

With Degrey and School both on 8 points and Porteus on 3, it all came down to the last match. We would either have a clear winner in Degrey or a three way tie at the top.

Porteus were the only house to field girls and both Alannah Mansfield and Emily Morrell were superb. The leadership shown by Ben Pilling took his team into an early lead. Degrey came back to level the scores. A goal for Porteus on the stroke of half time saw them leading 2 – 1 at the change of ends.

House Captain Matt Pimley pulled his team together. They were hungry for victory. They pulled level. 2 all. Tom Hogan was awesome in goal for Degrey, blocking and deflecting shots right, left and centre. In the final minute a loose ball saw Tom leave his goal mouth unattended. Alannah for Porteus reached the ball first. An open goal, 30 seconds to go, she shoots, she...misses! The ball skimmed the top of the net. Disaster for Porteus. The clock counted down. We were into the final 10 seconds when Joey Haynes received the ball and as I brought the whistle to my mouth to blow for time, the ball hit the back of the net. Degrey had won 3 – 2 and the person who had badgered



me for months to hold a water polo event had scored the winning goal.

The final scores were;

<b>1st Degrey</b>	<b>– 200 pts</b>
<b>2nd School</b>	<b>– 150 pts</b>
<b>3rd Porteus</b>	<b>– 100 pts</b>
<b>4th Hutton</b>	<b>– 50 pts</b>

I am holding an intermediate competition on March 10th. May the best house win!

Mrs Mackenzie

# Sports News

## Lower School Colours



Before half term the PE Department held the annual Sports Awards assembly to reward those students who were successful in attaining Lower School Colours.

Colours are awarded in Games, Gymnastics, Athletics and Swimming.

Students attaining colours are expected to:

- Have been regularly involved with a team over a two year period.
- Represent the team and school with pride and distinction.
- Prove to be committed.
- Be enthusiastic and keen to learn.
- Be reliable and dependable.
- Display sportsmanship, not gamesmanship.
- Participate regularly in Physical Education lessons.
- Adhere to the ethic of fair play.
- Be a role model for others.
- Show ultimate respect for the umpire, referee and opponent.
- Attend regular training sessions.

This year group is particularly talented and this was made obvious by the fact that 56 students gained their colours in one activity or another. Special mention must go to Tom Mewes and Titus Baker who were the only students to gain colours in three separate activities.

The awarding of Gymnastics Colours is very rare as RGS does not, as a school, compete in Gymnastics competitions. However Catherine Wood regularly competes out of school and has also recently taken a Gymnastics judging course and often officiates for primary inter-school competitions.

Joe Willis and Tylar Mitchell were deemed the students who had improved the most in Physical Education over the three lower school years.

Team of the Year was a very tough decision this year and there were many successful teams that deserved consideration; the girls' mixed hockey team reached the North Finals while the mixed hockey team were North Yorkshire Champions, the rounders' team was undefeated over the three years, both the boys' and girls' badminton teams reached the Yorkshire Finals, the boys' rugby team were runners up in the St Peter's 7s, the swimming team were runners' up in the Leeds and District Finals and finally the girls' cross country team were regional finalists. In another year group any one of these teams could have won the Team of The Year Award. However, ultimately, the Team of The Year was a unanimous decision; it was felt that the success of the U14 girls' netball team surpassed them all. This team qualified for the National Schools' Netball Finals and reached the semi-finals of that competition, losing to the eventual winners. Ripon Grammar School was the highest placed state school in the country. The squad members were Katie Reed, Emily Reed, Jess Merrin (c), Amelia Borchard, Molly Reed, Lucy Williams, Amy Mackenzie and Sophie Richardson.

Each successful student received a Colours Certificate and a pin badge to wear on their lapel.

The full list of award winners appears below;

### GAMES

GEORGE SIMENACZ

DIPRAJ JIMMEE

THADDEUS DAVEY

OLIVER DICKINSON

EMILY HAMBY

CHRISTIAN CAVELL-TAYLOR

JEMIMA STRACHAN

HUGO MERCHIE

BETHANY HAMBY

JAMES HOUSEMAN

NIAMH FROST

HENRY EXLEY

ALEX EDWARDS

ROSIE BARKER

LOUISE TAYLOR

EMILY REED

HARRY EDWARDS

MILLIE SIMENACZ

JOHN ESTENSEN

SOPHIE RICHARDSON

HARRY CANNING

JOE HORNER

HATTIE SOWRAY

SEAN OLDHAM

OLIVER WILLIAMS

EVAN REES

LUCA LOMBARDI

WILL PETERS

(28)

### SWIMMING

ADAM GRIFFITHS

POPPY ABBOTT

EVIE WITHINGTON

CHARLOTTE HASLAM

(4)

### ATHLETICS

SOLA SOWOLE

SOPHIE JOHNSTON

JAMES VEITCH

KATE REEVE

(4)

### GYMNASTICS

CATHERINE WOOD

(1)

### SWIMMING & ATHLETICS

ANNA MARLEY

SOPHIE WINKLE

(2)

### GAMES & SWIMMING

CONNOR EDDLESTON

SAM MANSFIELD

JOSH PILLAR

BERTIE BLACK

(4)

### GAMES & ATHLETICS

MOLLY REED

HARRY FEARN

TED WAINWRIGHT

GEORGIE TURNER

HARVEY TOOMES

AMELIA BORCHARD

KATHERINE BARRETT

JESS MERRIN

AMY MACKENZIE

LIBBY RICKARD

OLLIE ROCKEY

(11)

### GAMES, ATHLETICS & SWIMMING

TITUS BAKER

TOM MEWES

(2)

### MOST IMPROVED STUDENTS

JOE WILLIS

TYLAR MITCHELL

(2)

### TEAM OF THE YEAR

U/14 NETBALL TEAM

KATIE REED

MOLLY REED

JESSICA MERRIN (c)

AMELIA BORCHARD



# News from the Parents' Association

**Fundraising progressed well this term with the annual Burns' Night supper and ceilidh, raising over £1,400! A great evening was had by all; the piper piped the haggis and the guests in, the food was hot and tasty and the band played with their usual gusto and gave great directions! Many thanks as always to everyone that worked so hard to make this event go with a swing. Put this great fundraiser in your diary for next year.**

Don't forget contributions to our fundraising continue all year – the bucket for Cash for Coins is in Room 16 – any foreign or obsolete coins please as we are paid by weight. Have you joined the '200 Club'? This monthly draw has two cash prizes every month, membership costs only £15 a year and is open to any parent or grandparent with children currently at school. More details and a standing order form are on the PA pages of the school website.

Why not get out and enjoy the fresh air and some exercise and join one of our monthly "Walkies" ? Each month a small group of us get together for a brisk walk followed by coffee and cake. Dates and venues are on our Facebook page. £5 donation per person towards PA funds is requested.

This term we have approved bids for the food technology department (new hand blenders and food processors) as well as equipment to establish a chess club, supplemented by an additional, very



generous donation from Mrs Sheila Willis to buy chess clocks and a trophy. Equipment to enable indoor hockey to take place has also been funded.

Any parents able to help at functions, bake or join the committee will be welcomed with open arms! Anyone buying a ticket for one of our social events will invariably have a good time. We currently raise between £8-£13,000 per year but with more parents on board, both to support events and come up with ideas we could make more and bigger contributions towards school equipment to enhance the education at RGS.

Forward planning includes another Comedy and Curry supper evening in the autumn. We are looking for comedians, (two acts preferably) so, if anyone knows of appropriate acts we could approach, please do let us know. (This is an adult social, not for families)

Finally, next term will see the sale of raffle tickets for our Grand Prize draw. Anyone able to donate a raffle prize please contact me at [julia\\_w\\_61@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julia_w_61@hotmail.co.uk)

Happy Easter!  
Best wishes



## Ski Trip to Alpendorf

**Seventy students and six teachers went to Alpendorf in Austria for the annual ski trip during the February half term.**

Thankfully there had been plenty of snow and we arrived at 4:30pm on the Sunday, in time for the room allocations and tea before the ski fit. With a few adjustments to boots and skis we were all set for skiing the next day. After an early wake-up at 6am, we awoke to a foggy day and, after what seemed an eternity, managed to get seventy-six people's skis, helmets and boots on board the bus. A 20 minute bus journey took us to the slopes and with minor fuss we all got on a chair lift to the base of the slopes. Then we were divided into ability groups and all skied off in different directions. The visibility wasn't great, making progress hard. Only a few staff and students took alternative routes into the mist and were to be found a couple of hours later! At lunch the hot meals were ordered and the aching muscles were rested over stories of crashes and wipe-outs. Then we were ready to hit the slopes again. Over the week, everyone's skiing improved, with a slalom race at the end of the week to pit ourselves against each other. The evening entertainment during the week included swimming, bum-boarding, a pizza night, a presentation and a quiz evening. It was all very sad on Friday when we had to say goodbye to our fantastic rep and ski instructors. We took our final 'selfies' together and then we were ready for the bus journey home. Everything had been completed; the hoodies had been awarded, the slopes had been skied on, and the pupils gained another week of skiing. We would all like to say a huge thank you to Mr Margerison and to all the staff who helped make the ski trip one of the best Ripon Grammar School trips ever.

Libby Rickard, 4D



# Visit to Betty's Cookery School

During the cold and dark month of January, what could be better than a bread-making course at Betty's cookery school in Harrogate? We were fortunate this year to be able to take two groups of students from our current third and fourth years.

The revival of home cooking owes much of its popularity to television programmes such as 'The Great British Bake-Off' and 'Masterchef'. The Home Economics and Nutrition department at Ripon Grammar School aims to ensure that all students leave school with the ability to cook and feed themselves; this is especially important when students leave home and go to university.

Possibly the finest cookery school in the North of England, Betty's works with students to teach them the basics of making bread; their signature mark being a mouse made from salt crust. After making a range of bread shapes, the groups were then treated to a tour of the bakery where students learned about large scale production of artisan, hand-made products. They saw the famous 'Fat Rascals' being decorated with cherries and whole almonds before being baked. (Their recipe is still a closely guarded secret and possibly one of the most popular lines, with well over 5000 made each day before Christmas).

As you might well imagine, the highlight of the bakery tour was learning about chocolate work. The aromas coming from the tempering of chocolate and seeing the molten chocolate pouring out of the taps was captivating. Students were treated to a look behind-the-scenes at Easter Eggs and chocolate novelties being hand-decorated, and all will soon appear in the shops in time for Easter.

As you can see from the photographs, our students' patience was finally rewarded with a large bag of freshly baked bread rolls to take home with them. The morning's hard work had an enormous effect on appetites; most of the bread rolls had been consumed well before arriving back at school!

**Mrs Solden**  
Teacher of Food and Nutrition



# AS English trip to Haworth

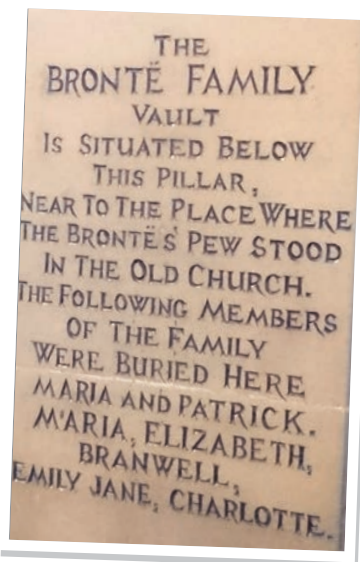
The lower sixth English students are currently studying 'Wuthering Heights' by Emily Brontë and went to the West Yorkshire village of Haworth in order to gain a deeper insight into the life of the author and the context surrounding her novel.

On arriving in Haworth, we visited the Brontë parsonage, where we were able to see the room where works of literature such as 'Jane Eyre', 'Wuthering Heights' and 'Agnes Grey' were written. We then had a lecture from a Brontë expert about the context of 'Wuthering Heights' and the ways in which Emily's experiences and surroundings shaped her work.

Following a walk around the steep cobbled streets, church and buildings of Haworth, we visited the graveyard. We were told that over 40,000 people are buried there:

the death rate in Haworth was devastating. This is bound to have had an effect on the Brontë sisters, both in being surrounded by death (a significant theme in their novels) and also in their own tragically short lifespans, with all six Brontë children dying before the age of forty.

Our next lecture was specifically about 'Wuthering Heights' and the different interpretations of it over time, which was invaluable to our studies of the text. We were able to learn about the opinions of critics that emphasised the importance of different themes of the novel, such as gender, class and race issues.



Overall, the trip was a valuable opportunity to learn more about 'Wuthering Heights', especially in seeing the landscape and surroundings that inspired the novel: the turbulence and wilderness described in the novel is seen around Haworth, especially in its exposure to the elements and power of nature, so evident in 'Wuthering Heights'.

Katie Veitch, L6B



# Next Steps

STUDENTS at a North Yorkshire school are taking a global view as they prepare to make final decisions about their futures.

From taking up university courses overseas to careers with international companies and ambitions to work with endangered species, sixth formers at Ripon Grammar School are planning for a variety of pathways when they leave.

Many students have gained offers from top UK universities, including seven from Oxford and Cambridge, the same number as last year at the Grammar School, which is the top performing state school in Yorkshire.

Other students are opting to go straight into careers by taking up apprenticeships.

Matthew Ford, 17, of Carlton Husthwaite, has applied for several IT related apprenticeships at some of the UK's leading IT providers including: Capgemini, The Civil Service and British Telecom. Matthew was recently selected as one of only twelve national candidates for an apprenticeship for IBM. Whilst Matthew was unsuccessful on this occasion it provided him with a valuable learning experience.

Beth Abel, 18, of Bedale, is staying closer to home to follow a family tradition of accountancy with a local firm of accountants in Bedale, Kenneth Easby Limited.

"I'm not that bothered about student life and I'm keen to start working. It's better to do my apprenticeship with a small company where I can learn all aspects of accountancy, rather than a big firm where I'd have to specialise," explained Beth, who is taking A levels in chemistry, maths, psychology and art.

Alannah Mansfield admits to having an international outlook and is set to choose between university in Maastricht, in the Netherlands, and Madrid to read European law.

"I want a career as a solicitor in an international law firm and feel I would gain a lot from studying in a different country. The degrees seem to offer more choice and the fees are much lower, and in Madrid I could develop my Spanish, which I'm taking at A level.

"I've done a lot of independent research, and the application process has been completely different for me as it's not through UCAS. For Madrid, where it will be a dual degree with civil law, I have to write essays, do an admission test and interview," said Alannah, 18, of North Stainley.

Alex Elvidge, 17, is another taking an unusual route having secured an offer at the national conservatoire of Wales, the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, in Cardiff.

The mezzo-soprano, from Kirby Wiske, went to the former Ripon Cathedral Choir School and sings in the cathedral choir and the National Youth choir.

Alex, who also plays the violin, clarinet and piano, will study for a degree in musical performance.

Max Vesty, 17, of Arkendale, near Boroughbridge, is one of five students with offers from Cambridge University and needs two A\*s and an A from his maths, chemistry and biology A levels.

"I've grown up around animals so it's what I've always wanted to do. I would like to spend some time working with endangered species in an animal park," said Max, who has an additional offer to read veterinary science at Liverpool.

He could be joined at Gonville and Caius College by Annabelle Blyton, 18, of North Stainley, who has an offer to read architecture, and Alfie Ashton, 17, of Winksley, who wants to be a criminal barrister after his law degree.

Ripon Grammar School head boy James Donaldson, 17, of North Stainley, wants to work in the bio-pharmaceutical industry after a degree in natural sciences at Clare College, Cambridge, and Ryan Wood, 17, of Burton Leonard, has an offer to read maths at St Catharine's College.

Flo Hall, who joined Ripon Grammar School sixth form from Thirsk School, and Jess Rutherford, 18, of Ripon, both have offers from Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University.

Flo, who will read history, had a challenging interview. "People say the interviews are enjoyable but in mine there was a panel of four professors and they had an essay I'd written on the Soviet Union's recovery. One of the professors was an expert on the Soviet Union. She pulled my essay apart and really tested my arguments, but I must have done OK."

Jess decided only a year ago to read theology after planning for law. She explained: "I realised theology is what I really enjoy and what I want to do. It's so fascinating and universal, touching social, political and geographical issues everywhere."



Photo: (L-R back row) Ripon Grammar School students James Donaldson, Beth Abel, Matt Ford, Ryan Wood, Alfie Ashton, Flo Hall; (L-R front row) Max Vesty, Alex Elvidge, Jess Rutherford, Annabelle Blyton, Alannah Mansfield

# Poetry by Heart

Following her success at the RGS school round of Poetry By Heart, Grace Branch, L6D, joined other winners from across the county at the regional final at York Explore.

The national competition, now in its fourth year, continues to attract pupils aged 14 to 18 who want to recite three canonical poems from memory. Judged by three professional poets and writers, the competition was fiercely fought and all the performers were impressive in terms of their accuracy, subtlety and flair, with the organiser commenting that the standard continues to improve each year. Grace wowed the judges and audience with her nuanced and mature performances, and was crowned the winner after a tense and tightly fought afternoon. She goes on to represent the region at the national finals, to be held at Cambridge University over three days in March. Congratulations to Grace on her superb achievement, and thank you to Mrs Dring and Mrs Mars for their help and organisation.



# Duke Of Edinburgh

As part of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme approximately thirty fourth-year students and several sixth formers spend an hour after school each week supporting the local Oxfam store in Ripon.

Before Christmas we organised a lucky dip that was put together by RGS students and, more recently, we decorated the window with recycled plastic bottles to raise awareness and money to provide clean water to communities where none is available. We have also spent several weeks preparing the displays for Valentine's Day and World Book week.

If you happen to be passing the Oxfam store in Ripon perhaps you could pop in to take a look at our work and, by making a small purchase, you could improve the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves.

Oxfam was originally founded in 1942 to ensure the supply of vital relief to civilians in allied countries. Since then extreme poverty has halved across the world with the help of large projects run by Oxfam. The charity shops raise around £90 million every year. This money goes towards emergency responses, campaigning for change and development work.

Natasha Lovel and Poppy Jagger, 4B



Goat head for window display to raise money for a pair of mating goats to send to a community

# News From RGS Library

## Reading Really Is A Pleasure

In the run-up to World Book Day at the beginning of March, lots has been happening in and around the library to celebrate reading and creative writing. The first week back after half term was designated as a Reading Week, with classes using Form Time to catch up with their reading for pleasure, and with teaching staff asked to allow extra reading time wherever possible.



February 4th was Bloomsbury's second Harry Potter Book Night. To mark the occasion we held a Potter Trivia Quiz in the library at lunch time, with over 20 teams of two tackling 30 questions based on all the Harry Potter books. Amazingly, two expert teams achieved 100%! Winners received book vouchers for Little Ripon Bookshop and Harry Potter bookmarks.

## Inspiration from Cathy MacPhail

Have you ever looked at all the ordinary, everyday things around you and wondered what would happen if they started behaving oddly? If you want to write imaginatively and creatively, this is a good place to start, according to author Cathy MacPhail. "A tip, if you want to be a writer, don't ever think nothing ever happens to you, because your own life is so interesting, if you just think about it." Finding out about old myths and legend is also a good basis for a story which can build on that tale.

Cathy had the whole of second year mesmerised by her storytelling and her tales of how she came up with the ideas for her books. She asked us to imagine that we were in our own school hall after everyone else had gone home at the end of the day; to



look around at what was there and to suggest what kind of spooky happenings might occur! There were some amazing suggestions, such as the piano playing on its own, windows flapping open and shut, strange noises coming from the speakers, the doors of the under stage cupboards slowly opening...

We were then treated to a viewing of the trailer for the film, 'Another Me', based on Cathy's book of the same name. This was spooky and thrilling and is the story of a girl who comes face to face with her own doppelganger. Finally Cathy read an extract from 'Mosi's War' and answered some of the many questions the audience members had for her.

Following Cathy's visit all her books flew off the library shelves, which says it all really!

## Harrogate District Battle of the Books 2016

Ripon Grammar School was delighted to host this year's local Battle of the Books Quiz on the evening of February 24th. Ten teams of four pupils from Year 9 or Year 10 gathered to showcase their literary expertise. RGS was joined by Harrogate Ladies' College, Harrogate High School, Rossett School, King James's Knaresborough, St John Fisher Catholic High School, Nidderdale High School, St Aidan's C E High School, Roundhay School, Leeds and Prince Henry's Grammar School, Otley with teams answering questions on topics from graphic novels, to book blurbs and even fantastical creatures.



The evening was hosted wonderfully by author Bali Rai whose books, such as 'Rani and Sukh' and 'Web of Darkness' are gripping and very popular with young adult readers.



A team of independent markers did a fantastic job and while they totted up the results for each round, Bali chatted to the audience of adults and primary children and gave them the chance to win spot prizes by answering some literary questions.

The contest was very close and the RGS team, with their lucky mascot Hedwig, did extremely well, but in the end it was Roundhay School from Leeds to emerge triumphant to win the trophy.

Ripon Grammar School's literary experts:

Sophie Jagger, Izzy Bremner, George Hurry and Eve Ison.

**"I think Bookbuzz is an awesome way to get people reading! Thanks for coming!"**

## Literacy is Everywhere

The importance of reading and how it informs all subjects, as well as developing empathy within the reader, is a high priority which is now becoming recognised across society and is increasingly backed up by recent research (<http://readingagency.org.uk/news/media/reading-for-pleasure-builds-empathy-and-improves-wellbeing-research-from-the-reading-agency-finds.html>).

Ripon Grammar School recognises the importance of wider reading and of encouraging creative writing across all subjects. Miss Kirkman's report details how geography students were inspired by writer and climber Matt Dickinson who uses his experience of extreme environments in his own fiction. In his astronomy classes, Mr Barker uses the book 'Longitude' by Dava Sobel, which is the story of the clockmaker, John "Longitude" Harrison, who solved the problem that Newton and Galileo had failed to conquer of how to determine longitude.

First form science classes come to the library to enhance their research skills by looking at how science is presented in the media and how it is important to consider the source of any information you find and evaluate its trustworthiness before using it in your work. Visiting author, Bali Rai, worked with Lower Sixth English Literature students to unravel the mysteries of how a novel is structured and how to approach the unseen prose question in their forthcoming exams (see a separate report).

To enhance their project on anti-bullying, all first form pupils have been reading the magnificent book, 'Wonder' by R J Palacio, to help them understand what it would be like to be in the position of a victim.

In the History Department, Mr Bruce has been able to organise a visit to RGS by Iby Knill, who is a Holocaust survivor and author of the book 'The Woman Without a Number'. Following the privilege of listening to Iby's story, third form students will work with our Patron of Reading, Dave Cryer, to produce some creative writing reflecting on what they have heard.

The school library loves working across all departments to support literacy in all its forms.

**Mrs Dring**  
**Learning Resources Manager**  
**Literacy & Numeracy Co-ordinator**

### Exploding toffee crisps, cutting off fingers and eating brains!

You could not hear a pin drop as Mr Matt Dickinson, author of 'The Everest Files' and 'North Face' spoke to third-year geographers about his epic endeavour to summit Mount Everest.

Mr Dickinson is an author, climber, film maker and director who has extensive experience within extreme and mountainous environments. During his one-day visit to Ripon Grammar School he supported Miss Kirkman and Mrs Dring to deliver a Geography Literacy Day with third year students. He worked with all students in small workshops to help them understand the physical extremes of such a wild environment and the ways that people have to adapt to survive within these landscapes.

After the morning session, during which Mr Dickinson spoke to all the students about his experiences, each form came into the library in turn for a small workshop to have the opportunity to produce a creative piece to reflect the challenges of mountainous environments. The students had the option of writing a poem, a diary entry, to produce an annotated photograph or to complete a storyboard to reflect the experiences Mr Dickinson had described in a chapter of his book, 'Everest Files.'

Throughout the day Mr Dickinson was on hand to answer their questions, ignite their interest and offer them unique information which was reflected in the vocabulary and descriptions they produced within their work.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and worked productively and enthusiastically on the tasks set during the workshop. Mr Dickinson commented on the work ethic of our students, saying "It was a delight to work with students so eager to ask questions and learn more".

At the end of the day the students gathered in the hall to celebrate their achievements during the workshop. Mr Dickinson had picked out one piece of work from each form showing outstanding effort and one piece of work reflecting outstanding achievement. We thanked Mr Dickinson for his visit and now look forward to his next visit. He should shortly be releasing the final book in his mountain themed trilogy!

**Miss Kirkman and Mrs Dring**



The winners were:

### Outstanding Effort

- 3A Geordan Branton and Edward Hutchinson
- 3B Isabel Poole and Emma Belward
- 3C Liam Langham and Ben Wyatt
- 3D Clara Dammann and Joseph Foster
- 3E James Simmerson and Jack Ibbotson

### Outstanding Work

- 3A Grace Withyman
- 3B Brooke Morrison and Layla Osman
- 3C Sophie Andrew and Alice Welsh
- 3D Jess Hasson and Susie Morgan
- 3E Charlotte Crum and Charlotte Brown

### RGS Book Club

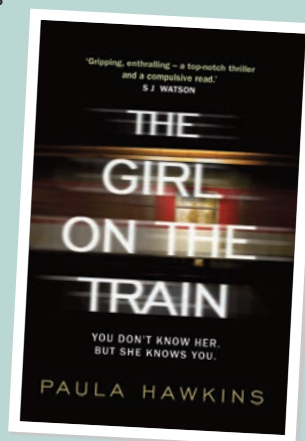
The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins

"There's nothing so painful, so corrosive, as suspicion."

The Girl on the Train is a psychological thriller which debuted at Number 1 on the New York Best Seller's list. This book challenges the conventions of a thriller as its main character, Rachel, is an alcoholic, prone to blackouts and with an unusual obsession for her ex-husband.

We begin the narrative with Rachel's journey back to the suburbs of London. It is a daily commute and if Rachel sits in her usual seat in her usual carriage, she can see the beautiful young couple who live at number 15 when the train stops at the signals. Rachel imagines a life for them and sits and waits twice each day to see them and the world she has constructed. But one day the beautiful woman who lives at number 15 goes missing. Rachel is drawn into this scenario and finds that the information lost in her alcohol fuelled blackouts and drunk-dialling could hold the key to this mystery.

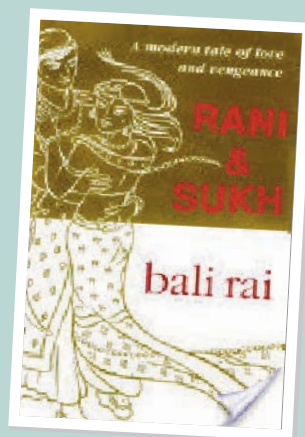
This book is an exploration into memory and the psychological effects of loss. Split into three narrative voices: Rachel, Anna, and Megan, Hawkins explores unreliable narrators and draws the reader in with gaps in knowledge and systematic blackouts. It is quite similar to Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn with its portrayal of a strong willed yet unhinged female lead. Just like Flynn's thriller it is full of twists and irrational behaviour which seems to be the making of a successful modern day mystery novel. The Girl on the Train is a gripping book which challenges fixed foundations and explores the often ill-defined line between victims and criminals.



**Julia Atherley, U6F**

### Bali Rai

Bali Rai, author of young adult novels such as 'Rani and Sukh', came to talk to myself and the rest of the AS English Literature students about his experience of writing and discussed the methods used by authors in order to 'pose questions' to their readers. In order to prepare us for our imminent AS exam, in which we will answer an unseen prose question, we were taught to look at not only the authorial techniques, but the reason why these techniques were used. Then, we took part in an exercise which consisted of us writing our own short piece of creative writing, about the beginning of a zombie apocalypse. We all found the experience thoroughly enjoyable and it will hopefully prove useful for our AS examinations.



**Sophie Ryan, L6B**

# HBC Website

## Ripon Grammar School students helped Harrogate Borough Council to develop their new corporate website

Mr Walker's A Level ICT students were invited by Alison Wilson, Principal Improvement & Development Officer, to be a focus group for Harrogate Borough Council's new corporate website.

The event took place at the council chambers and involved our students analysing three new proposals for the website and providing valuable feedback so the council can deliver a fresh, new and innovative corporate website. The council are developing the website in conjunction with a company called Jadu who have offices in the UK, America and Australia. The council have deployed several of its own staff to develop the 16,000 links that will be contained within the website. The projected launch date for the new website is June 2016. Our students were just one of several focus groups that the council have invited from a range of backgrounds and ages to ensure that the new website is well designed and easy to use. This event provided an excellent example of how real life complex IT solutions are developed and tested. The students will be able to apply the techniques used in the focus group to their own IT A level projects.

**Mr Walker**  
Head of IT Department



Left to right: Patrick Lindley, Matthew Ford, Keanu Montakab and Kris Chiu.

# Public Art Project

## During our weekly enrichment sessions, a group of sixth form students are in the process of planning a series of artworks to be displayed in the centre of Ripon, to transform it into a more interesting and unified city.

Over the last few months, we have worked with Creative Arts For:CE CIC, to come up with design briefs for different projects. The first involves the creation of a series of murals on the walls of Ripon's alleyways: these will be created by a professional artist (currently being chosen) and RGS students, and will incorporate ideas about Ripon's community spirit, gathered from residents.

Alongside this, we have been planning a more long-term project, focused on 'celebrating Ripon'.

This project is a truly exciting and transformative one that we believe will be beneficial both to us as students, providing a valuable opportunity to manage a large-scale arts project based on our own ideas, and also to the wider community of Ripon. We hope that by bringing art into Ripon, we will provide a much-needed boost to Ripon's sense of identity, appearance and community spirit, as well as attracting visitors and creative people to our city.

**Katie Veitch, L6B**



# Picture This!

## Photography Club has had a bit of a makeover this year. Now meeting every week, students are given the opportunity to enhance their photography skills in creative and fun ways.



As well as participating in photo shoots, students are learning about the work of other photographers, compositional techniques and editing by using Photoshop.

Mr Davis is now joined by Mrs Garmory to help develop the club. Mrs Garmory taught GCSE Photography in her last school, so has a very good understanding of the subject and has brought lots of exciting ideas to the club. In addition, Mr McLennan helps out when he can, bringing technical expertise to the group.

So far the club has completed two portraiture photo shoots, each experimenting with different styles of lighting. A "Photo a day" project has also been completed over the festive period which saw very impressive originality and creative outlooks from the students.

In search of interesting images the photography club leaves the confines of the school with trips taken to Hackfall, Studley Royal and the local allotments, with more planned in the near future.

Members of the club have also been extremely successful within the local photography community, being placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Ripon Rotary Competition and have had photographs displayed in Ripon Cathedral during the Great North Art Show. These successes will hopefully be continued with more competitions and events this year.

On a more academic note, photography can be extremely useful for developing an 'Artistic Eye' as it teaches you the value of a strong composition and the techniques you can use to achieve this which is something that is transferrable to the subject of art and assists keen artists greatly. It is also imperative that art students collect their own portfolio of photos to use as a primary source for their artwork and the photography club can help with this.

The photography club is suitable for everyone of all levels and we are always looking for new members so, if interested, please see Mrs Garmory for further information.

**Mrs Garmory and Mr Davis**

