

Hogwarts@RGS

The highlight of the library year so far has to be our celebration of all things Potter-related with our Hogwarts@RGS fortnight!

Prince's Trust

This year's Prince's Trust team have successfully raised over £1,100 to support the valuable work it carries out to support young people, both locally and nationally.

Careers and Higher Education Evening 2017

held on Wednesday 8th March, was extremely well supported by sixty participating organisations from a variety of career areas.

RGS News

Issue 46 Spring 2017



"Valle di Fiemme" Alpe di Pampeago



Welcome...

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Easter edition of the RGS News and, once again, I am most grateful to Mrs Hargraves and to the editorial team for their hard work in producing this magazine.

Although it has been a slightly shorter half-term, you will see that an enormous amount of activity has been packed into it and this is reflected in a very wide range of articles. Mr Seymour has been particularly busy in the music department and his Spring concert at Holy Trinity Church show-cased the talent of the students at Ripon Grammar School. It was a very enjoyable evening and I hope that you were able to attend. The senior production of 'She Stoops to Conquer' illustrated the acting talent at school and it was very rewarding to see how the students interpreted this play. Students also enjoyed a 'Harry Potter Fortnight', organised by Mrs Dring, which was very successful and involved many departments within school making RGS look even more like Hogwarts!

The season of appointing new staff has been relatively quiet, but new appointments in the English and psychology departments have been made. Mrs Levaht, currently head of drama at Ampleforth College, is joining the English department and Mrs Dodd, who taught psychology at St Aidan's in Harrogate, and is currently teaching in an international school in Malawi, will be teaching psychology from September. Mr Slater has already joined school as Systems Manager, taking over from Mr Hampshire, and Mrs Addis and Mrs Sanderson have assumed Senior Houseparent roles in School House and Johnson House respectively.

The number of applicants for the first form, third form and the sixth form has been exceptionally high this year and these include boarding applications. There is no doubt that the school will be full in September and, since school finances are extremely challenging at the moment, this can only be a good thing.

I am optimistic that work will start on the 3G pitch soon. Planning permission hopefully will be granted in June and this is being heard by the Planning Committee in NYCC. The 3G pitch will be fully floodlit and will enable full contact rugby to be played on it, as well as football. It will be a tremendous asset.

The careers evening, organised by Mrs Locke, was a tremendous success and was extremely well attended, with over sixty companies represented from the arts, humanities, languages, finance, law and public sector. I spoke to many of the exhibitors, who were delighted with the engagement of our students. This is an annual event and next year it will focus on mathematics and science-based careers.

There are a number of trips taking place over Easter, including the geography trip to Iceland and a classics trip to Greece. I hope the students will find them very enjoyable and useful.

Since this will be my penultimate term, I am in contact with Mr Webb, the new Head from September, and I will ensure that the transition will be as smooth as possible. There will clearly be a considerable amount of work involved in this, particularly next term. In the meantime I would like to wish you a very enjoyable Easter break and I look forward to seeing you in the Summer term.

Yours sincerely



M L Pearman (Headmaster)



Prince's Trust

Young Enterprise Team raises £1,100 for The Prince's Trust.

This year's Prince's Trust team have successfully raised over £1,100 to support the valuable work it carries out to support young people, both locally and nationally.

The team of lower sixth and fifth year students worked very effectively as a team to raise money by organising a whole host of activities including cake stalls, a Christmas Fair stall, home-made chocolates, candy canes, Valentine roses and school hoodies. In addition to this, for the first time, the students organised the Valentine Ball at Solberge Hall near Northallerton. The event was so successful the proprietors have invited them back next year. The team would like to thank all parents and students who have supported them over the past six months. They will be presenting their cheque to Cassandra Hughes, the regional Fund Raiser for the Prince's Trust, in the next few days.



The team (left to right):

Poppy Jagger, Maya Mellor, Katherine Dale, Eve Ison, Anissa Cook, Isobel Jones, Chloe Rushworth, Alicia Bailey, Helen Elsworth, Freya Whiteside, Hannah Pease, Isabel Andrew. Not in picture: Natasha and Abigail Lovel.

For more information about the valuable work the Prince's Trust does to support young people please go to: www.princes-trust.org.uk

Astronomy

RGS parents and pupils braved cold winter nights this term for an astronomical evening where they learnt a little more about the wonder that is our universe.

From planets to stars, asteroids to comets, our guests were treated to a presentation from Mr Barker followed by some star gazing and planet spotting down at the observatory. Although the clouds moved in, they proved useful in reducing the glare of the moon to observe it comfortably through the observatory telescope. The mulled wine, hot chocolate and cakes afterwards were thoroughly enjoyed in the warmth of the sixth form centre.

The British weather might not be an astronomer's best friend, but with patience and some good luck we hope our guests can remember the constellation pointers in the sky to help them navigate the night sky. At this time of year look out for the brightest object in the night sky (other than the moon) which is Jupiter: rising around 8pm in the east with its four moons visible through a telescope.

Mr Barker
Head of Astronomy



L6th Geography Field Trip to the East Coast and Leeds



This year the lower-sixth are studying coasts and regenerating places as part of the AS syllabus: in the examination we must answer questions relating to our own fieldwork. Therefore, on Monday 13 March at 8.30am, the twenty-five lower-sixth geographers set out on a minibus for the first of two days of fieldwork on the East Coast and the city of Leeds.

Our task here was to again examine the coastal landscape, but to also look at various regeneration projects that have been implemented in the area. Firstly, we took a stroll along the South Bay in the glorious Scarborough sunshine completing a range of tasks, including litter and footfall surveys. Everyone especially enjoyed carrying out questionnaires about tourism in the area. Then we travelled to the North Bay to look at the Sands Project - an apartment block complex with ground floor retail units. Having



analysed the success of this development, we jumped back on the bus and returned to school at 6pm after an exhausting day.

On our second day of fieldwork we were allowed the luxury of arriving at normal school time, owing to the fact our destination on Tuesday was to Leeds. Our day started in the Harehills ward of Leeds, where we spent a short time assessing the need for regeneration in the area. This was very interesting and a sharp

contrast to our next stop which was the impressive 'Leeds Dock' regeneration project. Modern and stylish apartments surround the canal area, which is well known for the Royal Armouries, and we were able to see the main stakeholder's attempts to turn this area into a social space with unique food offerings.

From there, we walked into the centre of Leeds and visited the Trinity Centre - undoubtedly the most popular place we visited across the two days! By completing a land use survey of the ground floor and perception test it was obvious to all what a success this £800 million development has been. We all enjoyed the freedom given to us by the teachers to let us carry out independent data collection and we spent several hours criss-crossing between the Trinity Centre and the new Victoria Gate complex to obtain our data.

At the end of the day we regrouped and returned to school where we handed in the two hefty packs we had completed during the two days. These were highly informative and also good fun, and they will certainly benefit us during the summer examinations. I think it also broadened our appreciation of how relevant geological concepts are to everyday life. A special thanks must go to Mrs Wainwright and Mrs Keelan-Edwards who supervised the trip and made sure everyone got the most out of it.

Ben Pimley, L6D

We arrived in Hornsea and we quickly set to work collecting data about the coastal environment there. Activities included measuring the heights of 11 groynes spaced along the beach and carrying out environmental quality surveys. A particularly interesting fieldwork technique undertaken involved throwing an orange into the sea and timing how long it took to travel ten metres horizontally (this was, of course, to examine the phenomenon of longshore drift). Our data collection took around two hours and we were then given a short break to eat our packed lunch, or sample the delights of Hornsea's doughnut kiosk. Our whistle-stop tour of Hornsea completed, we returned to the coach and drove a further hour on to Scarborough.

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Berlin 2017

After an early morning start and a reasonably stress-free bus journey, around thirty students arrived at John Lennon Airport to begin the annual Berlin trip run by the history department.

We arrived at our hostel following the first U-Bahn journey of the trip and quickly re-fuelled ready to start the evening's activities. We were all instructed to wrap up warmly in preparation for the bitter cold, and then set off for Potsdamer Platz - the old heart of Berlin, serving as a junction between the old East and West Berlin. After the first of many Christmas markets we walked to the Reichstag, passing parts of the Berlin Wall along the way. Arriving at the Reichstag we had an audio tour that informed us about the vivid history associated with this building and its role in history. We were also able to go out onto the roof of the landmark and view Berlin from a different angle. After descending from the dome, we made our way to the Brandenburg Gate which was a great opportunity for a group picture but also gave us a chance to appreciate this site as a symbol of the tumultuous history of Europe and Germany. Following Mr Bruce's excellent U-bahn navigation skills, we arrived back at the hostel after a thoroughly enjoyable first evening.

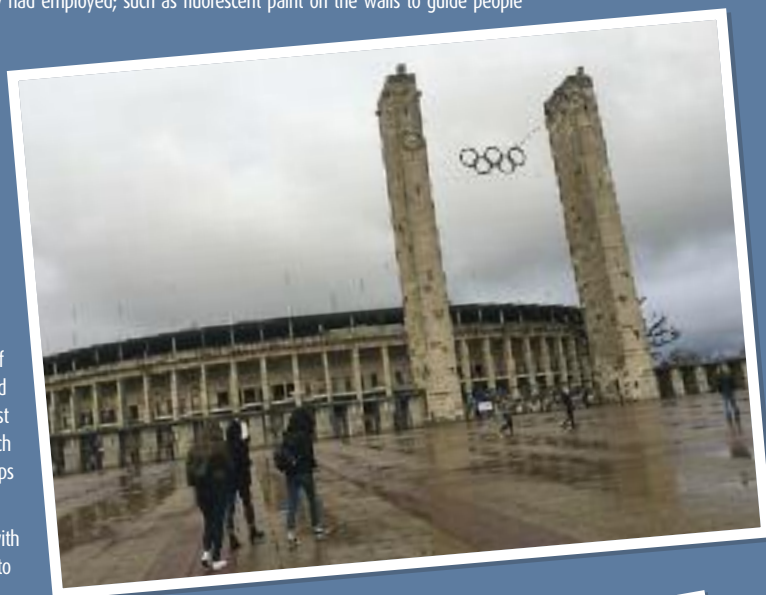
Our next day in Berlin began with a walking tour of some of the city's most meaningful attractions. Firstly we visited Humboldt University which was where some 20,000 books were taken from the library to be burnt after being considered opponents of the Nazi regimes in 1933. Next, we arrived at the German history Museum which offered a comprehensive view of Germany from Early Modern to present day. This was a particularly interesting experience for all of us as the exhibitions linked in well with our study of German unification for A-level coursework, but also provided information on the Cold War era, another area of study. A tour of a WW2 underground bunker was the afternoon's activity which was another very intriguing experience. During the tour, we gained an insight into how people would have lived inside this limited space for extended periods of time, and also saw some of the clever tactics they had employed; such as fluorescent paint on the walls to guide people through the darkness.

For many, the most interesting visit of the trip was to the Stasi Museum, which was a memorial centre concerning the feared police force of the Eastern State during the Cold War. This involved a tour of the detention cells, including those meant to accommodate four people which barely had enough room for two of us to stand comfortably in. The harsh reality of the atrocities that were committed here sunk in when our guide informed us about the torture tactics employed, such as strict isolation policies and slowly filling the cells with water so the prisoners' lower limbs were submerged for extended periods of time. The interrogation of these political prisoners was also very hard-hitting as it was evident that they experienced severe psychological torture that affected them very deeply. This experience gave a real insight into the lives of the people in East Germany and it was extremely shocking to us all that this happened a mere fifty years ago.

The last excursion was to Sachsenhausen which had to be the most thought-provoking aspect of the trip. On the tour we saw many harrowing exhibits including belongings of the inmates and also the prison cells, one of which was inhabited by Martin Niemöller. For many of us, the most eye-opening aspect of the visit was seeing the memorial for Soviet prisoners of war which represented the sheer number of losses during WW2 due to the concentration and death camps that existed in occupied Germany.

Overall, the Berlin trip was a truly memorable experience and something that I believe will stay with us for many years. We would all like to thank Mr Bruce for organising such an amazing trip and to Mr Spiers and Mrs Priestley for accompanying us.

Lucy Wicks, U6B



Art Group Visit To York

The fifth year art groups visited York to support their GCSE examination which we will sit in May. The examination title is 'Beginning and or End?'

The city of York is steeped in history so it seemed to be a very exciting place to research the theme. We went to the railway station, York City Art Gallery and to the Cathedral in order to take our own photos and get inspiration.

By taking my own photos it meant I could decide exactly what I wanted my photo to be made up of; this included the light, the perspective, the colours, the dynamics of the piece and the composition. This helps to capture the intended effect. In York I could get these images easily, as it has impressive structures and there are lots of people, meaning I could capture large groups and get many angles. We are using these photos to feed into work undertaken in the classroom.

Emma Kelly, 5D



Art work from Emma Kelly, 5D, and Caspian Barker's, 5B, sketch books following their visit to York as part of their GCSE coursework.

Fifth Form Home Economics Trip to Borough Market, London



Borough Market has existed, in one form or another, for around 1,000 years. It is located in the heart of London, at one end of Tower Bridge.

The market's layout reflects its rich history, with a warren of passageways and open spaces, which provided atmosphere and a sense of thrill for our fifth form Home Economics students.

What makes the market so special is the requirement for the stallholders to have responsibility for the procurement of their produce. We met traders who made cobnut oil from their own orchards and butchers who have their own livestock farms where they rear and market their own animals. There was even a woman who goes foraging for wild mushrooms at 3.00am each day so that she can make the most delicious mushroom pate we have ever tasted. The artisan food on display was fabulous.

Betty's Cookery School

On Monday 13th February, the current third form food technology students went to the Betty's Cookery School in Harrogate, led by Mrs Solden.

On arrival we were showed into the workshop where we met our guides for the day. After a brief introduction to what the day would hold, we were shown to a demonstration area where we learnt how to make the 'perfect loaf of white bread'.

During the lesson, we were informed about the role of yeast in bread making and the most effective way to knead dough to ensure a good rise. The final part of the tutorial entailed seeing a variety of ways to present bread, including single, double and triple plaits as well as some slightly vague looking animals! Once the demonstration was over, we were set the task of making our own loaf using the techniques we'd been shown. Incorporating all the dry ingredients was the first step, then we carefully added a mixture of water, yeast and milk until the dough came together in a ball. Next came the muscle work - ten minutes of non-stop kneading. After our arms had recovered, it was time to shape our dough into a presentable form, the most popular being a triple plait roll. This proved rather difficult for some of the boys in attendance! The bread was then proved and placed in the oven. Whilst the bread was baking, we visited the artisan bakery that produces all the goods sold in the Betty's branches across Yorkshire.



Students were given a special guided tour of the market by food blogger and official tour guide, Celia Brooks. Her wealth of knowledge, not only of the market but also the traders, made it very special and memorable. We tasted delicacies such as oysters, scallops, goat's milk ice-cream and ostrich. We viewed the multi-cultural street food traders who brought their own special warmth and vibrancy.

Possibly the highlight of the trip was to be found in our last stop at a chocolate restaurant. It was a wonderful way to end the day, sipping hot chocolate and tucking into chocolate scones and brownies.

Our day complete, we headed back to Kings Cross for the train back to Harrogate. Special thanks go to Mrs Mackenzie, who volunteered to drive the minibus from school to Harrogate, and Mrs Dring who was our accompanying member of staff.

Mrs Solden

After a thorough hand washing, we entered the preparation room and were confronted with industrial mixers taller than all of us! We then came to the ovens of which two were oil and gas powered, and the other wood burning. A highlight for everyone had to be the 'chocolate room'. With never-ending streams of chocolate it felt like we were in Willy Wonka's chocolate factory! The trip ended with bread

tasting where we rated assorted breads on categories such as aroma, taste and texture. Just before departing, we were reunited with our loaves of bread and were congratulated on the quality and appearance of what we had produced.

We would like to give our thanks to Mrs Solden for organising the trip which was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Will Wicks, 3C

History trip to Kraków, Poland

Early on the morning of Thursday 19 January, a group of fifth year history students, along with Mr Spiers, Mr Bruce and Mrs Fell, set off for an incredible trip to Kraków in Poland.

We flew from London Heathrow airport, and everybody was very excited to experience what the next few days would entail. On our first full day in Kraków, we embraced the snow and cold weather and had a guided tour around some parts of the city. We saw the Wawel Royal Castle, Wawel Cathedral, Kazimierz and then went on to visit Oskar Schindler's Factory. In the evening we headed back to Kazimierz to have a three-course evening meal at a Jewish restaurant with live music.

On Saturday, we went to Auschwitz-Birkenau which was, I can say on behalf of everyone, a life changing experience. We visited both Auschwitz 1, the smaller of the two camps and then Auschwitz 11 (Birkenau). I don't think I could ever begin to put into words what a great impact this had on me and my peers but what I can say is that it is well worth the visit. We are all incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to visit such a significant place to learn more about the Holocaust.

On Sunday, we went to the Galicia Jewish Museum which is a photo exhibition documenting the remnants of Jewish culture and life in Polish Galicia. Here we met an inspiring woman called Mrs Rennara and her story was one we'll never forget. She told us all about her life, having been born in a Jewish ghetto in Kraków during the Holocaust. Her father was employed at Oskar Schindler's factory, and as you can probably imagine her life and

her family's was incredibly hard. I think in the brief time we spent with her, we all connected with her in a very special way. Finally, I'd just like to thank all the teachers involved for organising such a brilliant trip and for taking us to such an incredible place to learn more about the Holocaust.

Amie Fraser, 5A



Students learning about different religions and cultures in Food and Nutrition lessons

As part of our ongoing commitment to community cohesion in Food and Nutrition, we invited guest speaker Helen Fraiss into some lower school lessons in January.

Helen is the community liaison officer for MAKOR which is a Jewish organisation based in Leeds. Helen visits schools to educate students about the Jewish way of life.

At Ripon Grammar School, she taught some students from the first, second and third form how to read and write their name in Hebrew. This was then followed up by a Challah bread-plaiting session, where Helen explained the importance of the Sabbath and religious observance. As you can see in one of the photos, students were provided with the opportunity to try on some of the religious attire. Finally, students learnt about how some Jewish people had escaped from the Nazis during the second world war. Helen showed short films, which have been made by two of the Holocaust survivors. Both of these elderly people are still alive today and live in Leeds.

We are keen to hear from members of the Muslim, Sikh and Hindu community who wish to provide us with an insight into their cultural dishes and way of life. If this is something that you are able to offer, please get in touch with Mrs Solden by email at soldenl@ripongrammar.co.uk



February Half Term 2017

Ski Trip

The ski trip departed on Saturday, 18th February and, as the coach pulled away, we all mentally prepared ourselves for the grueling twenty-seven hour journey we had ahead of us on the crammed double-decker bus.

We finally arrived in the unusually warm Valle di Fiemme in Italy for our week of skiing. We checked into Hotel Corona in the town of Cavalese an hour early, to everyone's delight. With the heavy luggage unpacked, we headed to our rooms and scrambled for the best beds. After settling in we all made our way down to reception to be led to the boot room where, for the next hour the hardest part of the trip would take place, finding the right ski boots for seventy students!

Despite the lack of snow across the landscape all the pistes were open and skiing conditions were great. Throughout the week, we skied in three different resorts: Pampeago, Bellamonte and Cavalese. The party started the week in sunny Pampeago where we were split into our groups for the week of skiing. There were seventy students and six teachers on the trip, all of mixed abilities. For some it was their first time skiing, but there were also others who had lots of experience. In total there were eight groups, all of which were led by fantastic instructors. One group even had the privilege of having the Italian racing team coach as their instructor for the week. The other two resorts we visited (Bellamonte and Cavalese) had great conditions and a vast array of skiing including blue, red and black runs; along with snow parks and slaloms.

The first day of skiing had to be the best. The weather was great and the snow was fresh - we had woken up at 6.30am (to everyone's delight) to be the first ones on the slopes. Most of us were still getting to grips with our skis and trying to work out the best way to get up after the inevitable fall downs! This was also the day that first impressions were made on our instructors and sadly, for some of the new skiers, this resulted in being individually led down the slopes by their instructors for the rest of the day...

Each night, after a full-on day on the slopes, we enjoyed a variety of evening activities including swimming, pizza night, snow-biking and sledging. I think the whole group would agree that snowbiking and sledging were by far the best activity. It was great fun to try out the snow bikes and sledges, despite the uncontrollable crashes and difficulties

returning to the top of the run by button lift!

Another highlight of the trip was the daily prize-giving. Hoodies were awarded for 'Skier of the Day', 'Most improved Skier', 'Deck of the Day' (biggest Wipeout!) and the 'Bantersaurus Rex Award'. A banana suit was also awarded for any other memorable or funny events of the day. There were some memorable moments on the trip and I won't mention any names,

but I'm sure the story of our new resident ice climber who, after coming face-to-face with the resort's steepest black, decided to scale a 20ft climb instead of finishing the run. The worst part was that no matter how much the hoodies and suits smelt, the winner would still have to wear it for the day of skiing ahead. After a full five days of skiing, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, it was time to say 'ciao' to our instructors and pack our bags for the dreaded return journey home. At 7pm, with the bus loaded with luggage and students, we waved good bye to Valle Di Fiemme and started on the way home to England.

I think that I can confidently say on behalf of all who attended the trip that it was a fantastic experience and we would all like to say thank you to Mr Margerison for organising the trip along with the help of all the other teachers that made it possible. I am sure that next year's trip will be just as successful and enjoyable for everyone who has the privilege of going.

Will Wicks, 3C



Hogwarts@RGS

The highlight of the library year so far has to be our celebration of all things Potter-related with our Hogwarts@RGS fortnight! We usually hold a big book event to coincide with World Book Day in March, but this year decided to build it around Bloomsbury's annual Harry Potter Book Night. The publishers provide a plethora of fabulous resources which we were able to use and we added our own ideas and efforts for good measure.

The celebration began with a series of lunchtime craft sessions. Any student could come along and enjoy creating wands, making Mandrakes or folding origami cats, owls and dragons. This was great (and messy) fun and provided some excellent props for the events to come.

February 2nd was the official Harry Potter Book Night and we organised a Hogwarts High Tea to run from 4.30-6.00pm. Anyone who wished to take part had to complete a form explaining why they should be able to attend; who was their favourite professor at Hogwarts, and why? and what was their favourite spell? There were some superb submissions from some very keen Potterheads (the official name for Hogwarts fans!). Successful applicants received an invitation to attend, delivered by owl. Mrs Dring and Miss Hutchinson totally closed the library (unheard of) for an afternoon to prepare for Hogwarts High Tea, transforming it into the Great Hall.

Before the event began, students gathered in the school hall and were divided into four groups which would represent the four Hogwarts houses. They then processed to the library and had to run through the wall at Platform 93/4.

There they were met by a candlelit Great Hall, ready for the evening's fun.

On entering Hogwarts the first task was for a representative from each group to take part in the Sorting Hat ceremony to determine which Hogwarts house they would be in. Everyone then made their way to the area which would be their base for the evening.

A series of quizzes and challenges pitted the groups against each other and also called on their knowledge of the Harry Potter books. It was great fun!

A photo booth proved popular with staff and students alike, with people really getting into character...



During music lessons the students listened to some of the score from the Harry Potter films and then had to compose a piece of spooky music containing all the right components.

First form Geographers had to practice their map-reading skills to tackle the RGS Marauder's Map, locating geography facts around school.

The Art department's *Fantasy Imaginary Creatures Project* was the perfect fit for our Hogwarts event, with students creating the most beautiful display of fantastic beasts.

There really was a magical mood around school and, after an exhausting fortnight of themed work and fun, everyone was ready for a rest in the Cupboard Under the Stairs! A big thank you goes to all the students and staff who worked so hard to support the event.

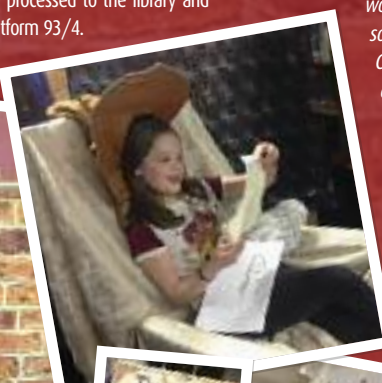
Mrs Dring



"I really, really loved the effort that went into the decorating of the Great Hall and the fact that we got a certificate at the end. I would have liked the High Tea better if it wasn't so competitive (and if there were crisps and Coke)...but the cookies were nice and I enjoyed the toffee apples. The Pumpkin Juice, Dragon's Blood and Veritaserum were all brilliant!! ...I really enjoyed it, even though we didn't win. I would have liked to win, but don't we all? I think it's fantastic we actually celebrated Harry Potter Book Night."

Sophie Pointon 2A

That was just the beginning! The next day we held a Harry Potter Superfan Quiz in the library and were very impressed by the students' detailed knowledge of J K Rowling's books. In the classroom, as well, the theme continued.



Professor McDringagol

Careers Club

Careers Club is now in its fourth year and goes from strength to strength, with a recent attendance of thirty-nine students at a psychology talk!

The club meets monthly on Wednesday lunchtime, with students coming along to hear from professionals about careers in a wide variety of areas. It is an informal opportunity for students from across all year groups to learn about the ways in which they can be preparing for particular careers and to find out about diverse areas of employment and study. Two students who have attended the talks so far this year have commented:-

Psychology

In February, we had a visit from Gordon Ryan, an Occupational Psychologist, who gave a talk on careers in psychology.

The talk was really well attended by students from the first year through to the upper sixth. He showed us a website which contained lots of information on different areas of psychology and gave us an idea as to what studying this at A-level and beyond would be like. Mr Ryan told us about the most popular areas of employment and the average salaries associated with this subject. The talk taught me that studying psychology can lead to many other careers in addition to becoming a psychologist and I am grateful to Mr Ryan for helping us to gain a better understanding of this career area.

Emma Adams, 3C



Landscape Architecture

Rachel Kay and Richard Wexham from Green-Tech came into school in January to talk to us about landscape architecture.

They are an award-winning landscaping supplier and they offer a huge range of quality landscaping materials and wholesale garden supplies.

They told us about how they started their business in a little van with only £200 and now they have grown to be the UK's leading landscape supplier. They have staff with a range of qualifications and told us what subjects we would need to study if we wanted a job in landscape architecture.

Emmi Scaife, 4A

Careers and Higher Education Evening 2017



The Careers and Higher Education Evening 2017, held on Wednesday 8th March, was extremely well supported by sixty participating organisations from a variety of career areas.

Careers and Higher Education Evening 2017 The Careers and Higher Education Evening 2017, held on Wednesday 8th March, was extremely well supported by sixty participating organisations from a variety of career areas. There was a really good buzz throughout the evening as over four-hundred students and parents, from across all year groups, explored opportunities for study and employment in the arts, humanities, languages, business, finance, law, politics, public sector, media, study abroad and many more!

Nineteen universities and colleges were also on hand to offer advice about study across all other areas and to help students with their career plans. Jonathan Doherty from Leeds Trinity University commented,

"I'm impressed with the event and with the number of people attending" and the University of Nottingham were surprised by

the levels of interest, saying "I have handed out all of my many boxes of brochures which I hadn't expected to do!"

This was a really good opportunity for all of those attending to meet representatives from all sorts of career areas and to learn about the huge array of career directions available to them. Emily Kerr from ITV News commented "I'm getting lots of enquiries about work experience placements and how to build a good CV" and representatives from Cummins were delighted to "have had some very probing and intellectual questions to answer". The Royal Navy said that "they had been so overwhelmed with the amount of questions and interest that, even with three delegates, they hadn't been able to keep up!"

Many positive comments received from parents included:

"This seems like a very professional event", "I like the diversity of the careers represented this year" and "it seems very 'buzzy', very 'relaxed, informal and chatty, which I like".

We are very pleased that the evening was such a success and was able to help students to prepare for the exciting and varied career paths ahead of them.

Mrs J Locke
Head of Careers

Medical Mini-Interviews

On Wednesday 16th November, students from both the upper and lower sixth, intending to go into clinical career areas, were given the opportunity to experience practice medical mini-interviews and a group interview. These were conducted by a range of healthcare professionals including GP's, consultants, nurses, dieticians and occupational therapists.

The interviews consisted of six stations led by different clinicians and tested a range of skills. Students were given one minute to read each scenario or question and five minutes to answer, before moving on to the next. A particularly useful station asked students to describe the key qualities of a medical student, whilst another station required participants to explore the controversial and ethical issues associated with providing a safe test for mothers to screen their unborn child for Down's Syndrome. One of the most challenging stations involved role play, where the student took on the role of an individual who had to break bad news to a neighbour after reversing into his beloved Ferrari, which tested our communication and interpersonal skills!

Whilst half of the students took part in the mini-interviews, the remaining students participated in a group discussion related to the issues surrounding smoking, excessive alcohol consumption and obesity, and possible strategies that could be used to overcome these problems in future. Initially,

the topic of discussion was introduced by a team of three clinicians, who asked some follow-up questions to explore our thoughts on related areas. The discussion was very useful in allowing us to appreciate one another's views and to further understand some of the key issues currently facing the NHS.

At the end of the event we received both verbal and written feedback from each of our stations regarding what we had done well and what we could improve upon, in preparation for our real interviews. This was a brilliant way in which to reflect upon what we had learned throughout the afternoon and any recurring issues, difficult questions and basic interview tips and techniques. The team of healthcare professionals even provided a plenary session in order to answer personal questions and to explain the reasons for their choice of particular career paths.

It was interesting to hear of their experiences of interviews which helped us, in turn, to prepare for challenging and sensitive questions which we might encounter.

Overall, the afternoon was a huge success and a valuable experience which we would all recommend to aspiring doctors or healthcare professionals in years to come. We offer our sincere thanks to all those involved in the organisation and running of the event and hope that it will continue to prepare students for interviews well into the future.

Emma Wilkinson, U6D

Ifrah Kamran, U6E

Zoe Langham, U6F

Physiotherapy

After being unsure about what career path I wanted to take, and physiotherapy being something that I was interested in looking in to, I thought that this careers meeting would be particularly useful to me.

During the meeting we were given lots of information about the general things that a physiotherapist would do on a daily basis, as well as the large range of health conditions that they can help with, including sports injuries, neural problems and circulatory problems such as rehabilitation from a heart attack. I found this particularly interesting as I was unaware of just how much

variety there was within this job. We were then informed about the path that we would need to take in order to become a physiotherapist as well as being given advice on the types of work experience to gain in the meantime. I found this experience incredibly useful and would definitely recommend a career meeting like this to others.

Ella Durkin, L6A



Practice Interview for Nursing



In January, the Careers Department organised a practice university interview for an adult nursing course. A local GP and a nurse came to interview me; they asked me a variety of questions covering topics such as why I want to become a nurse and how everything I have done in the past couple of years will help me in my future career.

There were also some more specific questions that I wasn't expecting, but this helped me to think outside of the box. Some of the questions that they asked had come up in a previous interview whilst others were new to me, and this practice enabled me to rehearse coming up with a good answer quickly on the spot. After the interview they gave me feedback and ideas for improving my responses. It was nice to have interviewers that I have never met because it felt real. This opportunity has helped me to improve my interview skills and overall it was great to get rid of the first interview nerves. I would recommend that anyone, nervous or not, has a practice interview.

Ella Borchard, U6D

RGS Current Affairs What's really happening

In the past few weeks, I and four other members of the sixth form decided to establish a newspaper about politics and current affairs for the RGS sixth form.

We realised how pivotal it is to be aware of the events occurring around the world, especially when policies and events will directly affect us as a younger generation. With political turmoil headlining the news on a daily basis, our aim in establishing this newspaper will be to engage our peers in current affairs and introduce debate and discussion of such

important topics. Hopefully, the articles will spark responses and will prompt others to speak up with their opinions on political issues.

The first issue of the newspaper is underway, with all articles being written by members of the sixth form. We are looking forward to sharing our first edition with our peers soon.

Louisa Chatterton L6B

Members in the team: Luke Brotherdale-Smith, Lucas Fawcett, Lily Millington, Louisa Chatterton and James Turner



Science Club

This term the members of science club have continued to take part in many new and exciting activities, led by a team of sixth formers, with supervision from Miss Hargreaves and Miss Green.

The club is open to first and second year students and is held on a Wednesday between 4pm and 5pm. We usually meet in a lab although some activities may require going outside, such as astronomy or pond dipping.

Science club aims to inspire its members to explore all areas of science through projects and fun practical activities, whilst expanding on their scientific knowledge and using their creativity. Some examples of the things that we have enjoyed doing this term include making bath bombs, assembling a jelly baby wave machine and building pinhole cameras. New members are always welcome, so if you would like to join speak to Miss Green or Miss Hargreaves or come to a meeting to try it out.

Emma Wilkinson, U6D

Greenpower Club Developments

The organising body of the Greenpower racing series introduced strict new rules regarding the braking systems of all Greenpower cars designed and built by schools for the 2016 season.

Both our current race cars, the Electric Chair and Carbon Comet passed scrutineering before racing last year, but with little in reserve. The RGS team therefore thought it a good idea to upgrade the braking systems of both our current cars for the 2017 season – if we don't pass scrutineering, we cannot race, no matter how far we might have travelled to attend. All brakes must now be able to be operated by hand (rather than foot) without removing either hand from the controls. The Carbon Comet was designed from the outset with a brake lever mounted on the single joystick but the Electric Chair uses a combination of both hand and foot controls which the Greenpower officials considered might be confusing (although our students have never found it to be so in fourteen years of incident free racing). For both of our cars it means some major re-engineering.

There is very limited space at the rear of the Comet to replace the current roller brake set-up so we will instead add disc brakes to the front wheels and replace the existing 20" diameter wheels with some more substantial but narrower 16" wheels. These feature robust hubs and powerful disc brakes from a down-hill mountain bike which should be highly effective. As all Greenpower cars are powered by the same minuscule 250W electric motor, momentum is certainly not to be wasted during a race; I have always encouraged our drivers to use the brakes sparingly! It is far better that our drivers anticipate when they might need to reduce their speed and to reduce power early, for example, before a tight corner.

These modifications, whilst extremely worthwhile, are consuming valuable time that the RGS Greenpower junior and senior teams would rather spend completing our new racing car. We are however, looking forward very much to testing our improved cars safely around the school grounds again soon as we prepare for the 2017 racing season.

Mr Mann



One of the Carbon Comet's front wheels with carbon fibre aerofoil upright and fairing

News from the Parents' Association

After the excitement of our annual Burns' night supper and ceilidh, this term has really been about forward planning: The Midsummer Masked Ball on 24 June and this year's Grand Prize Draw.

Tickets go on sale for the raffle just before half term and we have a lovely "hamper" theme for our prizes. If anyone can donate a prize – however small – of something that you would like to find in a hamper – jar of honey, bottle of wine, scented candle, voucher for a manicure, seedlings etc we will be packaging up a vast array of both big and small themed hampers and are very grateful for all donations from parents towards this great fundraiser. Last year the raffle raised nearly £3,000 which goes towards the running costs of the school mini-bus.

All money raised by the PA is donated to school for funding equipment and activities that will enrich the school life. This year we have so far bought cameras for the photography club, cricket covers for the pitch, and an electronic bowling machine, as well as resources for the geography department for data collection on their field trips – barometer, rain gauge, anemometer etc. The bid system is open to all departments and clubs in school.

The Parents' Association is not only about fundraising but also providing social opportunities for parents. March saw our first "Singalong" evening - watch the film, (Grease!) dress up as your favourite pink lady etc and join in all the songs (subtitles on the screen!!) Hopefully this fun evening will become a regular event, with a modest entry cost of £5. Next time, Mamma Mia? or The Sound Of Music?

Do join us for one of our monthly "walkies" offering fresh air, some exercise followed by chat, coffee, cake dogs not essential! Details from sarachatterton@gmail.com



At the time of writing, there were less than 40 tickets left for this year's ball, (last held in June 2014) This will be a fabulously glamorous evening, with delicious food and a band guaranteed to get you up and dancing! Don't leave it any longer if you would like to join us.

We are now looking for items to auction on the night, and sponsors for the welcome drinks. Can you support us with these requests? if so, please email me: julia_w_61@hotmail.co.uk

This term has also seen several new parents signing up to the '200 Club'. This monthly lotto offers two cash prizes every month (£50 and £25) and membership is open to anyone with children at the school, you can buy as many numbers as you like for the princely sum of £1.25 per month per number (minimum sign up for one year.) More details from Eleanor.hartas@hotmail.co.uk

Finally, thank you to all the volunteers who work so hard on behalf of the PA – the bakers, the tea ladies, the poster designers, the walkies' hosts, the washer uppers...a lot of hard work is done by a small group and we would welcome any new volunteers with open arms - please see the 'PA Needs You' form on the school website.

Happy Easter!
Best wishes

Julia Whitham

Music At RGS

Christmas

Christmas will always remain our busiest time of year by way of extra-curricular music.

The senior choirs were delighted to be asked to join Ripon Cathedral choir for their Christmas concert. We provided four pieces for the concert; Follow That Star - Gritton, I sing of a maiden - Hadley, Lulla, Lulla, Lullay - Stopford, and an arrangement of Silent Night. The packed Cathedral enjoyed our contributions and clearly the Cathedral did, as an invitation for our return next year soon followed.

The school Christmas concert was our next big event. As ever, all choirs ensembles perform at this informal concert and it also gives the choirs the opportunity to perform some secular and lighthearted numbers. This concert saw performances of works including Sleigh Ride (Mozart), Troika, A Christmas Festival, Trio of Kings, Have yourself a merry little Christmas, Let it Snow and many more. Notable performance came from Amy Goodwin's piano solo, Ralph Lockey's improvisation solos in Big Band and two excellent readings from Grace Branch and Gus Smith.

Our final outing was for the School Carol service. How fortunate we are to have the beautiful and ancient Ripon Cathedral on our doorstep for the venue of this annual event. I have extended the number of carols sung by the choirs each year as I feel we should use this event to show the burgeoning choral tradition of RGS at its finest.

As with most carol services, we began with Once in Royal David's City with the first verse solo from Joy Sutcliffe and the second verse sung from by the chamber choir. I was delighted to see so many people in the congregation (including plenty of Old Rips) as all the school choirs processed down the central isle to their places. The choir carols were as follows: The Truth form Above - Vaughan Williams (Chamber Choir), African Noel - Traditional (Musicality), A Christmas Blessing - Stopford (Senior Girls' Choir), Silent Night - Man Choir (Gruber arr. Seymour), Saint Joseph's Carol - Trad arr. CH Seymour (Chamber Choir) and Tomorrow Shall be my Dancing Day - Gardner (Combined Choirs). All the hymns were ably accompanied by the brass ensemble, led by Mr Highton and supported by Mr Astley. Superb solos came from Katharine Chatterton, Daniel Evans, Archie Sladden and Eva Scullion.

The readings were beautifully presented by Joe Davis, India Prendergast, George Vivian, Head Girl Emily Evans, Mrs McNaughten, governor Dr Preece and Mr Pearman.

I was, and remain, exceedingly proud and impressed of all those taking part. My sincere thanks to Mr Highton and Miss Bignell for their leading roles, and to Mr Tim Harper (cathedral organist) for accompanying us so magnificently. Also to Mr Fell who, along with the cathedral vergers, made the whole thing run so smoothly.

Spring

The New Year has brought a busy schedule of rehearsals in readiness for our Spring concert. With the exception of the Big Band and Jazz Trio, all ensembles and choirs performed at this event.

The first half was given over to performances from all the choirs and ensembles including performances from the chamber choir and chamber orchestra of Benjamin Britten's challenging Choral Dances (chamber choir) and Courtly Dances (chamber orchestra). The wind band gave a superb performance of music from the Chronicles of Narnia soundtrack and the junior string ensembles a set of Irish folk song arrangements. We also heard two student compositions; Harry Canning's composition for clarinet and piano and Harvey Leak-Smith's composition for guitar ensemble. The second half saw the chamber orchestra and senior choirs combine in a performance of Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria. This was a significant undertaking and the students involved gave a superb and riveting performance. Excellent solos from Susie Morgan, Katharine Chatterton, Sofia Robinson and Joy Sutcliffe.

My sincere thanks also to Miss Bignell, Mrs Stables and Mr Highton for their rehearsals and direction of choirs and ensembles. Also to Mr Sowden, Mr Astley, Mr Chamberlain and Miss Ivkos, a professional violinist from the Ukraine, for swelling the ranks of the orchestra in their accompanying role in the Vivaldi.

Other notable events and successes

Outside of the extra-curricular routine we have had a number of successes in the academic department.

A-level music students, Joy Sutcliffe and Sofia Robinson, have had great success in their university applications. Joy has been awarded a place to study music at St Hughes, Oxford and has secured a place to sing with the renowned choir at Merton College. Sofia has been offered an unconditional place to study music and philosophy at Royal Holloway and as I write is preparing for choral scholarship auditions with the superb chapel choir at Royal Holloway.

Recently our A-level music students have enjoyed composition master-classes from Professor Philip Wilby. Professor Wilby has recently retired from his post at the music faculty at Leeds University but, living very close to Ripon and enjoying teaching, he was happy to come and work with our composers. This has been a wonderful and valuable experience for them and I have seen their confidence grow significantly in this difficult and demanding area of music.

Mr E Seymour, Director of Music



Cross Country

On the 14th January, RGS hosted the inter-area cross country competition for the first time. 250 runners from four different areas competed for a place on the North Yorkshire team.

It was a flat course around the perimeter of the school pitches, extended thanks to St Wilfrid's and Holy Trinity and going through their fields. The weather was as good as the races which featured some high calibre athletes. Eleven of our runners qualified from this race to represent North Yorkshire at the inter-counties, and nine of these have been selected to race at the English Schools Cross Country championships in Norwich. The whole day ran smoothly thanks to our fabulous staff, students and Ripon Runners volunteers.

Phoebe Greensit, U6B



RGS U16 Girls go to Indoor National Finals

Our journey to the National Finals in Bromsgrove began in the summer of 2016 when our team began Indoor Hockey from scratch under the experienced coaching of our school hockey coach, Mr Bosomworth.

We found it challenging to adapt at first to the new skill set required for the sport: a much more intense game which tested both stamina and stickhandling skills: combined with many new rules to get used to!

With support from school staff, parents and, of course, Mr Bosomworth's hard work, with training we became North of England champions: beating all of our opposition in some demanding matches and achieving something which we never thought would become a reality; it was clearly evident how much this meant to us all after seeing huge smiles, celebrations and even tears of joy all around!

We were now on the route to Nationals and this meant preparing for what was going to be an amazing opportunity for all of us, which included new kit, hoodies and accommodation, all thanks to Lucy Williams and Millie Simenacz who organised our sponsorship, and also to Mr Bosomworth as well who provided us with surprise personalised t-shirts, which we all loved!

We then found out we'd be playing four matches during the course of the two days: including Repton, Millfield and Cranleigh on Friday and on Saturday, Hailybury, all of which are huge school hockey names. We were definitely nervous to be coming up against the vast number of England players amongst these teams, especially having only played for a matter of months; however we were so thrilled to have qualified, we couldn't wait to go!

We took the minibus down to Bromsgrove and after a quick photo shoot before departure we spent the next three hours full of excitement, music and anticipation. Soon we arrived at our hotel and were able to spend time together as a squad, which strengthened our team spirit ready for the days ahead.

After a good night's rest and a full English breakfast, our first challenge was to face Repton, probably one of the best known clubs and schools for hockey and who would surely be 'in it to win it'. With intense warm-ups, preparation and a fighting team talk from Mr Bosomworth, we took to the pitch to play in the first match of the entire tournament as the speakers called out each player's name to the audience. Filled with nerves and ambition the whistle went and the game commenced. We had first possession and played our game and to our (and probably their) surprise, within a matter of seconds we had scored! Unfortunately our lead was overcome and the final score was 7-1 to Repton. However we had a very good game and it was amazing to be able to play at such a high level.



Our final game of the day was against Cranleigh, and after losing two games already we welcomed the positivity from our supporters who cheered and waved the Yorkshire flag! We played much better in this match and it was one of the closest we had. During the challenging match we gained a penalty flick of which Georgie Turner took and scored. Shortly after, Amelia Borchard saw an opportunity at goal and pushed it into the far

corner securing our lead! Overall the score was 4-2 and, considering this was against the team which eventually placed second in the whole tournament, this made the result even better!

The following morning we prepared to play our last match against Haileybury. We knew this was going to be our best chance of a victory but unfortunately we narrowly lost 3-2. However this was a very competitive match and we were unlucky not to gain the edge.

Despite the losses, every one of us had an unforgettable time at the Nationals; the atmosphere was fantastic and the elation at even reaching the finals made up for our losses and didn't take away from the experience in the slightest!

The whole team would like to express their thanks to the proud and loyal parents who fuelled us with positivity and motivation when we needed it the most and for travelling all the way down to support us, also to the sponsors for enabling us to experience the whole weekend, to school for providing us with the facilities and equipment to train with, and to Miss Gilfillan for always being so committed and reassuring throughout the entire journey. We are so grateful for all of this support. But most of all thank you to Mr Bosomworth who dedicated so much of his time and effort into transforming us into the talented squad we are now and giving us the skills to get so far. Without this training we'd never have been able to make our dreams of getting to a National Final a reality.

Georgie Turner, 5E



From left to right: Emily Hamby (GK), Millie Simenacz, Lucy Williams (C), Hattie Sowray, Libby Rickard, Louise Taylor, Georgie Turner, Bethany Hamby, Jess Merrin, Amelia Borchard.

Sport Round-up

It has been a successful year so far for rugby at RGS: the U18, U16 and U14 teams qualified for the Yorkshire Cup final at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield.

The U18 and U16 teams will play Crossley Heath School, Halifax, and the U14s will play King's School, Pontefract: this is the second year in a row there have been three teams in the final, a considerable achievement. All rugby teams, at the time of writing, are well placed in the White Rose tournament and hopeful of qualifying for the finals, which will be held on 30th March.

Football continues to go from strength to strength, with some teams reaching the later stages of the area cup.

Cross country teams have also been successful. Along with the achievements of those students qualifying for the English Schools' championships, the inter girls' and junior girls' teams came second at the North of England championships in Manchester on 4th March and the third year team came fourth.

The swim team has had an excellent term, beating Queen Ethelburga's, St Peter's, Bootham and Harrogate Ladies' College. The season culminates with the annual Leeds and District Championships, with the finals to be held on 25th April.

A relatively recent addition to RGS' competitive sports teams is gymnastics: the floor and vault championships take place on 19th March in Hull. Once again, we have two teams competing, with the U14 girls looking to improve on their fourth place ranking of last year.

There is much anticipation for the forthcoming cricket season, following the kind support of the Parents' Association, who have purchased cricket covers and a bowling machine for the school. Alongside athletics, we hope to have a successful summer of sport ahead.

Katie Veitch, U6B



North of England
Cross Country
Championships in
Manchester.



RGS Leavers...

At the end of May, the upper sixth will go on study leave and begin preparations for their next steps. By now, most have a fairly firm idea of what they'll be doing next year, though for many this is results-dependant.

As ever, there is a wide range of different paths being followed, from studying more traditional subjects at university to following vocational paths or taking gap years to travel and take time to decide what to do next.

"Next year, I am going to study Professional Dance and Musical Theatre at Bird College in Sidcup, Kent."

The course differs to most subjects and entry to the college was no easy feat. I had to attend an all-day rehearsal consisting of a three-hour dance class, learning four different dances of four different genres, perform a monologue and song to a panel and have a short interview. The course is very intense, consisting of over 30 hours a week of training in dance, drama and acting collectively. The purpose of the course is to work with the student and help build their ability of the three aspects of performing to prepare them for audition and application for future roles. I am very much looking forward to the training I will receive in the following years and hope that I am successful in the field I am attempting to enter.

Joshua Belward, U6E

"I am hoping to work with animals as a future career but am not sure exactly what I want to do, and so I chose to take a gap year to give me time to look further into the options available."

In October and November I will be volunteering for a horse rehabilitation project in South Africa. This involves both the day-to-day care of the horses at the centre and also the training of younger horses so they can be suitably re-homed. The surrounding area also offers the opportunity to explore and assist in wildlife conservation in game reserves. I will be able to shadow rangers as they go out onto the reserve and monitor numbers of zebra and rhino.

During the rest of the year I hope to gain more experience in veterinary surgeries, on farms and handling animals generally in order to help me decide which area I would like to work in, while also having a part-time job to earn money for university. Later in my gap year I would like to undertake another volunteering project in a different country, possibly Australia, as I want to make the most of the opportunity and time to travel.

Sophie Spick, U6D

"Studying Maths, Economics, History and RE during my time in the sixth form, I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the interplay between the four subjects, such as the philosophical and ethical debates concerning inequality and the immorality of markets in economics."

It is for this reason that I hope to study Philosophy, Politics and Economics at the University of Exeter post-sixth form.

However, like many, I am unsure of what path to take once I have completed my degree. Fortunately, a degree such as PPE is quite versatile and keeps quite a few doors open. Hopefully by the time three years has passed I will have decided what career path I'd like to go down! For now, I look forward to throwing myself into university life, joining lots of societies and sports teams.

Roscoe Savage, U6C

EPQ... Extended Project Qualification

A number of sixth form students have undertaken the challenge of completing an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) alongside their A Level studies this year.

The pupils are tasked with coming up with a question which they go on to write an extended piece of writing about. Alongside the essay they are required to fill out a logbook, evaluate sources and also present their findings. This year the presentation phase of the EPQ was altered; it took the form of a "market-place" style environment in the hall in which each student had a stall. The lower and upper sixth students and teachers were given the opportunity to look around the wide range of topics explored- climate change, the modelling industry, organ replication, CERN's Large Hadron Collider to name just a few.

Poppy Dunstan, U6E

Following some extremely interesting and thought-provoking work experience at the 'Together Women' project in Leeds, I decided to investigate the successes of non-custodial sentences for female offenders within the British Criminal Justice System for my EPQ.

(This is a "one-stop shop" for vulnerable women suffering with mental illness, homelessness and drug and alcohol addictions which serves as an effective alternative to prison in reducing repeat offences). I used a number of sources to gather my information; from firsthand accounts to radio shows, newspaper articles to reports published by charities and trusts, government documents to degree level papers. Upon writing my EPQ, I studied both the detrimental effect that prison has on women already suffering from a "web of issues" and the costs of prison, in terms of financial, social and human factors. I explored these factors and discussed suitable and effective alternatives to prison in reducing repeat offences, as clearly there is a huge question as to whether sending non-violent women to prison serves any benefits at all. I was able to conclude that for women who have committed petty, non-violent crimes alternatives in the form of residential and non-residential community centres are much more successful than short custodial sentences. This is due to a number of reasons, including the fact that re-offending rates for women who are in prison for a short span of time are dramatically higher than women following schemes in community centres, reduced unemployment upon leaving prison, the extortionate price of prison compared to the alternatives and the counterproductive impacts that children of prisoners may experience.

I found the process of writing my EPQ both incredibly interesting yet also extremely useful for my studies; I am planning to study social anthropology next year at university in which I will be studying societies both within the UK and around the world. My EPQ has prepared me for the ethnographic research which I will undertake as I have been able to study real case studies; I was able to get an insight into some of the harrowing cases that, if I hadn't completed my EPQ, I wouldn't have begun to consider.

Poppy Dunstan, U6E

For my EPQ I wanted to conduct an investigation into some sort of historical topic, due to the fact I am planning on studying History at university.

My question selection was quite complicated and changed several times during my initial research. In the end, I decided on the topic of burial rituals in the Ancient World. After refining my question, I chose to focus on the Pharaohs of Pre-dynastic Egypt, all the way to those in the Ptolemaic period. The focus of my question was to find out how the burial rituals had changed over this period spanning around 3000 years. After exhaustive research into all areas connected with my question I came to the conclusion that the funerary rituals practiced by the Ancient Egyptians changed quite dramatically over time due to a variety of factors. The main finding of my investigation was that the changes were not catalysed by external factors, such as invading forces in the case of the Libyans and the Greeks under Alexander the Great. The adaptations, it seems, were caused by issues within the practice itself such as premature decay of the body in the early times, and then the embalmers and priests aspiring to produce the most life-like representation of the body even once dead in the later dynasties. From simple and shallow graves with few grave goods included in the pre-dynastic period, developing to massive pyramids and intricate rites surrounding the burial in the Old Kingdom, it shows how the

Egyptians were deeply involved and interested in furthering their chances in the afterlife by adjusting certain aspects of the process to improve the preservation of their bodies.

Lucy Wicks, U6B

I decided to do an EPQ about religion and feminism, as part of my wider interest in these areas and as preparation for studying theology at university.



I eventually decided on a title of 'is it possible to be a Catholic feminist?' In my essay, I looked at the difficulty of trying to reconcile modern feminist views with the misogyny of some of the key Catholic texts and authorities. I focused especially on ethical issues, such as the Catholic ban on ordaining women as priests and on abortion. After much dilemma I concluded that it is impossible to be a Catholic feminist without relinquishing some of the strength of belief in either Catholicism and its authority, or feminism and its values. My research process was lengthy though very rewarding in finding out more about topics I am deeply interested in: it has been a valuable insight into university-style writing and research.

Katie Veitch, U6B

I don't think that, for anyone, the EPQ process was "easy" but it was undoubtedly rewarding.

My project focused around two areas of massive interest to me - feminism and literature - and after changing my title four times I completed my question on "To what extent is Duffy's 'The World's Wife' influenced by third-wave feminism?". "The World's Wife" is a brilliant collection written by our current Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, that is somewhat revolutionary in how each poem is written, from a female perspective. Wellknown fairy tales and stories such as Little Red Riding Hood and King Midas are subverted from the traditional form into a form that subtly reflects tenets of third-wave feminism.

One of the biggest, and most important, pieces of advice I could give to anyone is research and write about what you personally love and are passionate about and to stick with it, as originally I didn't think that I was going to be able to complete the project but I am so glad that I continued with it. Not one person does the same area of focus which highlights how much freedom the EPQ process gives you. For me, it was amazing to look into an area of literature we don't study in school and link it to feminism which not only allowed me to expand my knowledge of the collection but also of the individual waves of feminism that include the first, second and third wave.

To anyone thinking of doing an EPQ it is something that you definitely won't regret and, although it will test your commitment, the skills you gain and knowledge that you develop around your subject is 100% worth it.

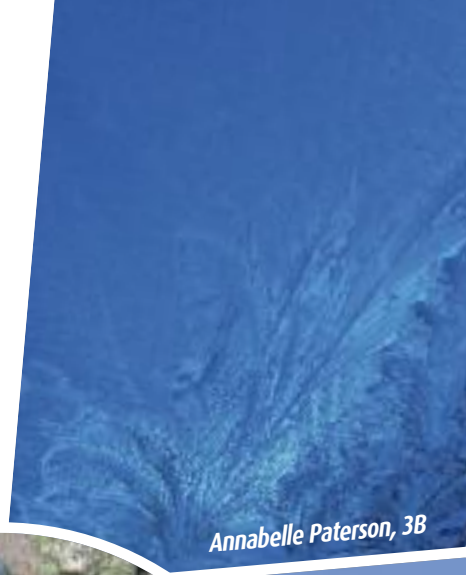
Katie Fraser, U6G

Photo Club

Photo club is a great place to learn new skills and techniques about photography. On 29th January, we went to Hackfall Woods to take pictures for the 'Royal Horticultural Society' competition.

We will enter into the Young Photographer section of the competition, which is about depicting plants, gardens and/or wildlife in your photos. Every person in the group took competition-worthy photos and utilised all the skills and techniques that were taught in the club. Overall, it was a great day out and everyone seemed to have fun taking close-up pictures of nature.

Erika Phillips, 3D



Annabelle Paterson, 3B



Emma Adams, 3C



Jasmine Oakes, 1A



Lucy Pringle, 3B



Caitlin Webber, 3E



Jessica Clark, 1A



Erika Phillips, 3D



Esther Arnold, 3A



Francesca Moulton, 3E

2017 Grand Prize Draw

If you liked the BFG, you're going to LOVE the BHG!
No, not the Big Horrible Giant, but the BIG HAMPER GIVEAWAY!!

Big or small, (eco)friendly or not, giant or minute, the Parents' Association would be delighted if you could donate something to include in one of the superb themed hampers that will form part of the BHG Prize Draw to be held during the Summer term.

So far our ideas include (but are certainly not limited to), Garden, Pets, Beauty, Regional Specialities, Healthcare and Wellbeing, Local Produce, Beers, Sports, Racing, Tennis.....

The only limit is imagination, so if you are able to help donations can be left with Mrs Kinread in school reception (any beer or wine donations to be delivered by adults not children please) or for more information contact julia_w_61@hotmail.co.uk

Editorial Team Many thanks to the editorial team who have worked so hard and written articles for the last three editions of the RGS News. They are: **Poppy Dunstan, Katie Fraser, Katie Veitch, Georgie Wardall and Lucy Wicks.** Thanks also to all the members of staff who provide articles to inform you of our students' superb achievements; we hope you have enjoyed reading them.

Mrs Patricia Hargraves RGS News Editor