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Issue 44 Summer 2016

# RGS News



Front cover picture is entitled 'Moon by artist Not Vital'. This photo was taken at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.



# Welcome...

Dear Parents,

I hope you will enjoy reading this current edition of the RGS News which contains a superb range of activities held this term.

I am very grateful to my secretary, Mrs Hargraves, for overseeing the editing and to the students who have contributed many of the articles. The RGS News is testament to the commitment of staff above and beyond what is expected of them and the range of opportunities that students experience at Ripon Grammar School is as a result of the willingness of staff 'to go the extra mile'. I know that the students appreciate it very much and that the staff clearly enjoy providing these opportunities.

At the end of the current academic year a number of staff will sadly be leaving RGS. These include two retirements from long-serving teachers, Mr Garvey and Mrs Lofthouse, who have accrued 58 years of service to school between them. This is a tremendous achievement and testament of their commitment to Ripon Grammar School. I would like to wish them very well in the next stages of their lives.

I am delighted that Mr Pepper has been appointed Assistant Head of Ryedale School and there is no doubt he will be much missed by students who enjoy his inspirational teaching. Miss Ireland is relocating to Hereford and we wish her well too. I am pleased to welcome Mr Macmillan to the RE department, Mr Astley to teach German and Mr Harding to teach games and PE. I hope that they enjoy a very happy and successful career at RGS.

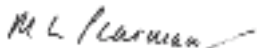
Our new bursar, Mrs Balsdon, has replaced Mrs Pybus and she has already started with us.

There are some very significant developments nationally, as I am sure you are aware, especially the possibility of academy status and the introduction of a national funding formula. Both of these potential changes could have a significant impact on RGS. The forced academisation of all schools by 2020 is now no longer compulsory, which gives governors and I more time to consider the future. There are no immediate plans to become an academy and, more importantly, we wish to ensure that the quality of education on offer here is as good as it can be. The possible conversion to an academy does not necessarily improve this. The introduction of a national funding formula, which is currently being consulted upon, would be introduced in a few years' time. I would hope that rural schools such as RGS would benefit from any change in the funding formula and that financially the school would be in a better position as a result of this.

In the meantime, the examinations have finished and we have enjoyed some excellent end of term events, including the junior production, sports day, lower school prizegiving, the induction evening and day for our new first year students and our commemoration service in Ripon Cathedral. Preparation for the coming academic year can now take place during the summer vacation.

I hope that you will have the opportunity to enjoy a holiday this summer and I look forward to seeing you next term.

With best wishes



M L Pearman (Headmaster)



## Nestlé STEM Grand Finale Day

A group of six students from Year 10 (Katherine Hooper, Catherine Hancher, Jessica Hepworth, Poppy Robinson, Finlay Procter and I) got through to the Nestlé Final Day.

This was the result of entering a national competition, where we had to create an innovative product made purely from the factory's waste materials (such as wrappers, mis-shapes and paper towels). This was part of a process to ultimately select the best eight students to attend a week's paid work experience.



We spent the day in three mixed groups; Blue, Green and Red (I was in the Blue team), amongst many other schools, being assessed on our different attributes. We began by being given a presentation on how to have the perfect interview. After that, we each had a three minute interview with one of the Nestlé team.

Throughout the day we took part in three different activities:

The first game we played was with all forty-seven of us, during which we had to find somebody for each category; for example, 'A person with two sisters'. I was the first to finish this sheet and was given a £15 Apple voucher as my prize.

Secondly, we were given fifteen balloons (and were not allowed any further balloons if any popped), Sellotape and scissors and then told that we must make a chair on which someone could sit for 30 seconds without bursting any of the balloons (no part of our body was to touch the floor, and so the chair must support the whole of our weight). Having popped two balloons, my group of three made a flower inspired Ottoman. As I was the smallest of the group, I volunteered to sit on the balloon chair. Another team decided not to blow up their balloons, instead sticking them together and standing upon them like two mats.

In our final activity, we had to create a new pop-up summer coffee drink and then present our idea. At the end of the day, we all had our pictures taken and were given a goody bag as a 'thank you'. We are now all waiting with anticipation to find out the final results.

Christa Wilson, 2C

## Farewell to our sixth form students

With another summer approaching it is time to say goodbye to another year of sixth formers as they embark on the next stage of their lives away from Ripon Grammar School.

The scope of paths chosen is huge, with many opting to continue their studies at University both abroad and in the UK, whilst others apply for apprenticeships. Alannah Mansfield is taking a dual degree in European and English Law spending two years in Segovia, a third in Madrid at the IE University and then a 4th and final year in England. When talking about attending the Open day at the university, she spoke with enthusiasm about the cultural variety and how amazing it was to speak to people from so many different countries.

In contrast, Coulton Hill is pursuing Mechanical Engineering at Loughborough University, an area which he is extremely passionate about. Choosing from the hundreds of universities is always difficult as each differs from the next but Coulton chose Loughborough because of the variety of sports it offers as well as being a campus university, whilst Alannah chose Madrid because of the community feel as it is small but cosmopolitan.

However, university is not the sole option - apprenticeships are also popular. One such apprenticeship route is accountancy and Beth Abel is undertaking such an apprenticeship at Kenneth Easby Ltd. Unlike university this will plunge her straight into working life as Beth will start her training for accountancy in February whilst attending college on an arranged schedule. Moving on from school is exciting with Beth talking about the freedom of "being in charge of my own time" and Coulton similarly talking about how he is looking forward to the increased independence that comes with university life.

Despite this, when asked the more challenging question of what they will miss about Ripon Grammar School, each responded in turn with the sadness of leaving their friends and the comfortable and happy environment that school provides. The comforts of home will also be missed with Alannah saying how her mum's cooking will definitely be missed!

This only highlights a brief snippet of the careers being chosen as they are too numerous and varied to mention. But I know I can speak for everyone at Ripon Grammar School in wishing all the sixth form leavers the very best of luck in each of their respective paths and hope they continue to stay in contact with friends and the school in the exciting years to come.

Katie Fraser, 16G



# Geography Trip to Sorrento

**At midnight on 3 June, a group of fourth year geography students plus four teachers travelled to Luton Airport from where we flew to Naples, Italy.**

The first place we visited in Italy was the pasta factory. We viewed the different stages of pasta making and then had the opportunity to buy pasta from the shop to take home. We visited the black sand beach in Sorrento in the evening, where some of us played volleyball, rounders or frisbee, and some of us just paddled in the sea.

On Saturday morning, we visited Vesuvius, Naples' active volcano. After a long, uphill walk, we made it up to the point where you could look into the crater. As it was a cold day, we could see fissures- small wisps of hot air condensing, coming from the hotter chambers inside. Vesuvius was such a fascinating place to visit, and it is an amazing geographical feature.

Pompeii was another amazing place to visit. So many of the ancient buildings had been preserved and were a shocking, yet intriguing, example of the effects of a volcanic eruption.

Herculaneum, like Pompeii, was a city affected by a volcanic eruption. It was an ancient Roman town, in the shadow of Vesuvius, destroyed by a pyroclastic flow.

A highlight of the trip certainly must be our visit to the ice cream factory. We met with a very enthusiastic worker who showed us how they made ice cream and sorbet, and we got to taste, and make, some different flavours. Unsurprisingly, they were delicious!

We also visited the Amalfi Coast, which attracts many tourists and is a popular holiday destination and we took a boat trip on the amazing blue-green sea. The same day, we visited a working mozzarella farm, where we got to try a variety of Italian food.

On our final day in Italy we went to the capital, Rome. We saw a number of amazing historical sites such as the Colosseum, the largest amphitheatre ever built. We also saw the Trevi Fountain, and briefly, the Spanish Steps.

After a flight and a long bus journey, we arrived back in Ripon at 5am.



## Sorrento Trip Review

The fourth year Geography trip to Italy was amazing. We landed in Naples on Friday 3rd June and then went to the Gagnano pasta factory in the morning. It was a brilliant experience, as it was so interesting to see the processes involved in pasta making. The next day, we hopped on the bus to Mount Vesuvius which was absolutely incredible. Although it was a long journey there, and a bit of a climb to the top, it was definitely worth it! We could see the steam rising from the fissures within the rock and our guide at the top of the volcano told us a lot about this and the most significant eruption in 79 AD which led to the burying and destruction of Pompeii, Herculaneum and several other settlements.

In the afternoon, we visited Pompeii. Here we had a guide who showed us around the excavated site which was really useful as she definitely helped us understand more about the catastrophic eruption. The following day we visited Herculaneum, which in a way was actually a lot more impressive than Pompeii, as it was better preserved and a significantly smaller settlement. It was an amazing experience and one I don't think any of us will forget.

On Monday we drove along the Amalfi coast which was breath-taking with stunning views. Once we arrived at Amalfi we went on a boat trip and the views of the towns built into the cliffs, beautiful boats and landscape was enough to make us all want to stay for ever. For our final day in Italy, we went to Rome where we visited the Colosseum, the Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps. I think I can say on behalf of all the students on the trip that we are incredibly grateful to Miss Kirkman, Miss Murray, Miss Clark and Mr Spiers for organising it and taking us on such a memorable and fascinating trip.

Amie Fraser, 4A



I think I can speak for all the students who went to Italy when I say that it was an amazing, and educational, experience where we had a great time. I would like to thank Miss Kirkman and the other teachers for organising it.

Marina Mitra, 4C

# Careers Evening

**The Ripon Grammar School Careers and Higher Education Evening was a valuable opportunity for students of all ages to get an insight into a broad range of careers.**

The school's hall and gym were full of stands run by representatives from various universities and organisations, primarily those with a STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) or sport focus. Students and parents were able to talk to experts from these professions and find out more about the options available after leaving school. Represented at the evening were huge companies such as Specsavers, Nestlé, Boots and Barclays, as well as organisations such as the Met Office, Armed Forces, Fire and Rescue Services and the Engineering Development Trust.

For some students, the evening was an opportunity to talk to professionals about a career they are already considering. This was particularly true of older students with a clear career path already in mind and those currently taking science-based subjects. This is the first year that the school has had a careers evening with this theme; a member of the sixth form said that "having a science-based evening means students with a specific focus can really benefit".

However, the evening wasn't just of value to older students with a fixed science focus: parents commented that it was especially useful for the youngest students to see the possible outcomes of studying science in the future. Even those more arts-focused students found the evening useful, with one saying that "there are more varied careers in science than I ever expected".

What especially stood out from the evening was the huge spectrum of opportunities available to students. There were stalls representing careers in everything from aviation to chemical engineering, 3D printing to agriculture. A representative from the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine said, "It was great fun talking to the students. They're always a bit uncertain about what career to choose so it's good to help them see how many routes physics can open up". Those on the army's stand remarked that "a lot of people don't realise the huge variation that the army offers" - medicine and engineering had been popular areas of interest for those students considering going into the army in the future.

Overall, the evening seemed to be a very valuable and informative one for both students and parents. There was a great atmosphere, with the organisations praising the engagement and positivity of the students they spoke to.

**Katie Veitch, L6B**



# Fourth Year Queen's Theatre

For my work experience, I spent a week at the Queen's Theatre in London. It is a part of the Delfont Mackintosh Theatres group and puts on a stunning performance of *Les Misérables* eight times a week. Each day I worked in a different department, allowing me to see the different aspects of working in the theatre.

The first day I spent working in the box office. This included a tour of the theatre and auditorium and finding out which seats were at which prices and which had a restricted view. I also had a pleasant walk around the

West End, spending some time at the other theatres in the group and a visit to the phone room, where all the telephone bookings are recorded, and the box office staff. When I returned to the box office I was able to help distribute tickets to people who came to collect them for the evening's performance and I also learnt how to spot a 'ticket tout' and how the theatre booking system worked.

The next day I watched two introductory DVDs that were shown to everyone joining the company, before joining the front of house team for the evening. I got to see how a debriefing was done before checking tickets and even got the opportunity to watch the first act of the show!

The following two days I spent working behind the scenes. On Wednesday I worked with the technology team and was able to watch the full show from one of the 'follow spots' with a headset on so I could listen to all the lighting cues. During the interval I got to go on stage and meet some of the stage crew and watch them moving the set around for Act two. After meeting the stage crew I was lucky enough to work with them the next day, having a backstage tour and watching some of the rehearsals from the wings and then from the auditorium. On Thursday I also had an hour on stage door.

On Friday, my final day, I was shadowing the deputy manager of the theatre; this meant I did a lot of filing and looked through some CVs for potential employers.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the week. I have had the privilege to meet some wonderful people and would be thrilled to have the opportunity to work there in the future.

**Kathy Hooper, 4A**



# Work Experience at...

## Bettys & Taylors

We were very fortunate to spend our week's work experience at Bettys & Taylors Harrogate. During the week, we both spent time in the shop and in the restaurant. Both areas of the company are surprisingly different and require specific skills.

To secure our placement, we had to complete a very detailed application. We were then required to attend a formal interview. This was rather nerve-wracking as the interview set up was quite intimidating and taught us about the world of work, especially if we were to apply for work there. At the interview they asked us various questions about the company and its history; this challenged us but we learnt a lot more about it during our week there.

On our first day we were introduced to the many different people with whom we would be working. (We didn't work together during the week but we think that this pushed us out of our comfort zones and has helped us become more confident as a result).



*Niamh and Amelia working at Bettys & Taylors, Harrogate*

Whilst working in the shop, we shadowed staff and assisted them in serving customers, which meant we learnt how to use the tills and take payments. A very important part of this was taking part in reorganising the displays in the shop; Bettys use triangular formations to attract and captivate customers. It was very interesting but quite difficult to arrange the products effectively and to a high enough standard. Another key factor was learning in detail about the various products, especially for customers with allergies or intolerances. Many customers are interested in the production of the foods so it is very important to know the ingredients contained and how they are produced.

During work in the tea rooms, we acquired many new different skills and gained an insight into a commercial kitchen. It was very busy and quite stressful at times but still very enjoyable. We shadowed waiters and waitresses who showed us how to clear and correctly set the tables, take orders and input these into the tills, prepare and serve hot and cold drinks and serve food. We were busy all the time as the tea rooms were almost continuously full. It gave us an opportunity to meet the regular customers who were interested to hear about our experience working there.

Overall, we loved our work experience at Bettys, and we hope to return as employees. We would encourage anyone going on work experience to ask lots of questions, as it is a very valuable opportunity provided by the school.

**Niamh Frost and Amelia Fraser, 4A**

## Network Rail

For our work experience, Tom Noble and I both went to work for Network Rail in York, Tom for two weeks and myself for one week. We were both really looking forward to the first-hand experience of the maintenance of trains and how Network Rail operates.

On the Monday morning, we arrived at 7:45am and were given our bright orange overalls before getting on with our first day of work. Tom was allocated a job in brake testing, whereas I was given the job of servicing engines. I found it great fun and discovered that I developed many new and different skills throughout the week. The staff were also extremely friendly and helped us both to settle in with the daily 'pub quiz' at break and the crossword at lunch, which usually ended in an argument followed by a 'Google' search to prove who was right and who was wrong!

We both found that there were many differences between the workplace and school, the biggest of which was the fact that we worked from 7:45am until 2:30pm, meaning we were completely shattered by the end of the week. Furthermore, there was no sitting at desks or computers; it was all hands-on work, which always ended up with us both covered in oil (our arms swamped in it, and a few marks on our face too!)

In my opinion, this work experience was extremely worthwhile as it confirmed that I would really like to have a career in engineering when I leave school and university. It has also been eye-opening for me, as although I have wanted to be an engineer for a while, I had never thought about more hands-on engineering rather than a mathematical engineer. I really enjoyed the week at Network Rail and I wish I could have stayed longer!

**Will Peters, 4D**



## Opening doors at RGS

**The school is about half way through installing two new automatic access doors and ramps, one into the Clock tower entrance and the other at the end of the North corridor.**

Due to the Grade Two listed building status of this school building, the ramps and doors have been designed to complement the existing building and at the same time improve access and security for students and staff. New lighting and a disabled car park space have been installed as part of the project.

The project has had its setbacks, mainly due to a hidden cellar found at the North corridor end; this looks like it may have held coal for the boilers many years ago which our local Ripon Grammar School historical society visited and examined the cellar to help identify the room.

The project is being funded by North Yorkshire County Council and is due to finish in July 2016.

**For further information or if you have any queries, please contact Mr Andrew Hogg, Premises Manager at Ripon Grammar School by email [hogga@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:hogga@ripongrammar.co.uk)**





# Yorkshire Sculpture Park Art Trip

On 13 June, the fourth year art students spent the day studying the wide range of sculptures, including those of Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth, at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in order to gain inspiration for their own sculptures.

We spent the first part of the day photographing sculptures in the 'Not Vital' underground exhibition; many of these sculptures expressed powerful meanings that were conveyed through a large range of shapes and textures. We then progressed towards the vast range of outdoor sculptures where we proceeded to carry out our first sketches of sculptures in order to study their properties further. In particular we found the sculptures by Barbara Hepworth engaging as not only did they use a range of texture and tone but the complexity of their forms allowed challenging sketches. Towards the end of the trip we travelled to the main park to see the

larger sculptures such as the Iron Tree by Ai Weiwei and the Sky Space by James Turrell, both of which combined natural shape and light with sculpture. Overall we found the experience fascinating; observing the sculptures interacting with nature in the large deer fields provided us with photos and sketches for our sculpture books.



Poppy Robinson and Emma Kelly, 4D

## New RGS School Officers

**ACTIVE and hard-working students have been appointed to official positions at their school, combining their leadership roles with volunteering, career planning and adventure.**

The new head boy and head girl and their deputies at Ripon Grammar School have completed their AS levels and have now thrown themselves into their responsibilities alongside a host of other activities.

New head girl Emily Evans, 17, wants to use her history, economics, maths and chemistry A levels to become a lawyer and, alongside completing her gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, is spending her summer holidays in Malaysia and Borneo on a World Challenge expedition.

"We'll be doing a month-long trek and project work, building a new block at a school for under-privileged children," said Emily, of Bishop Monkton.

"We've already been hosting open days and speaking in assembly as the new school officers. When I wrote my application for the role, I started thinking about how much the school has done for us. It's played such a huge role in who we all are and it's really nice to be able to give something back," she added.

Head boy Roscoe Savage, 17, of Galphay, who is doing A levels in maths, economics, history and RE, said: "I think the role is about reaching out to all members of the school. It's a collective effort among the group of officers and we all have a role to play."

Emily's three deputies are Katie Veitch and Sophie Ryan, both 17 of Ripon, and Zoe Langham, 17, of Thornborough, whose sister Lauren is a former head girl.

Zoe, who wants to follow Lauren into medicine, is a Rank Scholar, attracting a prestigious £13,500 award that involves work placements and leadership development for the handful of students nationally who are selected.



The new school officers at Ripon Grammar School (back row L-R) Will Stobbs, Katie Veitch, Finn Morgan; (front row L-R) Sophie Ryan, head boy Roscoe Savage, head girl Emily Evans, Zoe Langham

Sophie is studying chemistry, English literature, history and RE, and is lined up to spend part of her summer shadowing Selby & Ainsty MP, Nigel Adams.

A runner, Katie wants to study theology at university and become a journalist.

Farmer's son Will Stobbs, 17, of Bishop Thornton, is studying maths, further maths, chemistry and geography, and is also aiming for a gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

His fellow deputy head boy Finn Morgan, 17, of Northallerton, who joined Ripon Grammar School for sixth form in September, is studying history, English, economics and classics and is a volunteer at Mount Grace Priory.



# KS3 Science Trip to the Forbidden Corner

**On Saturday, 18 June fourteen brave students from the KS3 Science Club set out to explore the Forbidden Corner, near Middleham, along with Miss Hargreaves, Mr Highton and Mr Davis.**

It looked inconspicuous enough when we first ventured in, with a beautiful garden, lovely weather and just a few odd statues - but it was soon to get weirder!

The students loved exploring the labyrinths below the garden and all the strange sights to see there. There were a lot of shrieks, screams and general terror, plus it was great fun to try and get the teachers as wet as possible! Poor Mr Highton definitely got the most soaked thanks to the efforts of some of our students!

We picnicked in the garden and the students had to make sure they had ticked off seeing all the strange sights, including a giant axe man, a dancing frog fountain and a burping reptile that swallowed you whole. After a few games and a peruse around the souvenir shop everyone travelled home exhausted but very excited about the strange things they'd seen, all ready to design and make their own model attractions to add to the garden once they were back in school.

Louise Taylor and Poppy Robinson 4D



The next event saw the team track and field cup where the inter-girls had some unfinished business from last year after just missing out on the regional A finals. However, despite some excellent performances, and leading by some distance after the track events, the girls finished second on the day which was only enough for the regional B finals, due to take place at Hull's Costello Stadium. The big surprise of the day was the junior girls who similarly secured qualification to the regional B finals. The junior boys finished a very respectable fifth place. Sadly due to a clash with a school trip the inter girls were unable to attend the regional B finals but the Junior girls did attend and it was a similar story to the inter girls in the first round with the team leading after the track events. Once again our lack of depth in the field events meant the girls finished down in fourth position.

Following on from the trials earlier in the season, a number of students were selected to compete at the North Yorkshire Finals. The pick of the performance came from Sola Sowole in the fourth form, who defended her 100m and 200m title to become county champion. Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla tasted similar success in the 800m, securing her first ever county crown. Robbie Eames picked up a bronze in the 300m as did Harvey Toomes in both the 100m hurdles and discus. Kathryn Barrett also secured bronze in the discus.

The final athletics event of the season saw the 32 strong RGS team head to York for the Area Championship finals. The day got off to a great start with Isabella Binks leading the way by winning the Y8 girls hurdles in a new area record of 11.59 beating a record that had stood since 1983. Not to be outdone Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla then won both the Y9 300m and triple jump in new area records, an amazing achievement.

Other area champions included Sola Sowole, who became double area champion in Y10 100m & long jump, adding to her county titles from earlier in the season, Sola will also go on to represent North Yorkshire in the forthcoming English schools championships.

On the track the success was continued with Robbie Eames (Y9 300m), Abi Knowles (Y7 200m) Fummi Sowole (Y8 100m) all being crowned area champions. Out in the field the other students were also having great success with Harriet Strachan (Y8 shot) Archie Lawson (Y9 triple jump) and Will Barrett (Y8 discus) taking area titles.

The day also included a number of other athletes putting in some excellent performances, resulting in a number of school records. Excitement now builds towards sports day with a number of school records surely under threat.

Mr Milner

## Athletics

### The season began with the Harrogate and Craven trials, with RGS taking a small but strong squad.

Elliot Hutchinson and Sola Sowole led the way with double victories in the 100m and 200m sprints. Anna Marley (1500m), Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla (800m), Harvey Toomes (100m Hurdles) and Robbie Eames (300m) were also in fine form on the track similarly securing their area vests.

Out in the field Kathryn Barrett came first and Jess Merrin secured second place in the triple jump with Kathryn also securing qualification in the discus, Harvey Toomes qualified in the same event whilst there were other performances of note from Mena Scatchard, Archie Lawson and Isabella Binks.

## White Rose Rugby Series

### Following on from the success of the Yorkshire Cup, the conclusion of the year-long White Rose rugby series saw three Ripon Grammar School teams qualify for the finals day at West Park Leeds RUFC.

The afternoon session saw the U13s take on the best of Yorkshire but after defeat to a strong Ermysted's team, the Cup win was always going to be difficult. However the team did manage to secure the runners-up spot, with a more deadly finishing touch required to go one step better next year. The conclusion of that event saw the beginning of the U15's with the boys looking to defend their title of three years in a row, as well as the added pressure of being the reigning Yorkshire Cup Champions. Added to this was the fact that they were without Captain and talisman Ted Wainwright so the team had a lot to prove. However, despite the added pressure, the team secured the title with relative ease, finishing with a comfortable win over Ilkley Grammar School.

The afternoon sessions were complete but the rugby wasn't finished and neither was the taste of success for RGS. The evening session saw the 1st XV take the field and even with some less than convincing displays and one defeat, their attacking prowess was enough to secure the title on points scored; a pleasing end to the season for many of the players after being beaten in the Yorkshire Cup final.

Mr Milner





# Girls' Rugby



**In the summer of last year, some of the girls petitioned to start a girls' rugby club, and we succeeded!**

The club started on Tuesday lunchtimes with most of us never having played rugby before. At the beginning it consisted of a few girls but as the weeks went by the news spread about how much fun it was and so now we have a full squad. At our first tournament of the year, we were absolutely smashed, not to mention Sola's "almost" try. But we came back and practised and in the following tournament we put up a good fight and missed out on qualifying for the next round by only one try. After a disappointing first match, but then improving and winning our next games, three of us were scouted to try out for North Yorkshire Girls' rugby team. Our current squad consists of: Poppy Robinson, Louise Taylor, Immie Unwin, Brianna Dale, Sola Sowole, Jess Merrin, Niamh Frost, Isla Sloan, Amy Edmondson and Hattie Sowray, Georgie Turner, Molly Reed, Abi Lovel, Eve Ison, Amelia Borchard, Kathryn Barrett and Millie Simenacz. Overall we have had an amazing year, having lots of fun and laughing our way through the mud whilst learning an enjoyable new sport. Next year we hope to come back stronger and qualify for the next round.

**Louise Taylor and Poppy Robinson 4D**

# Swimming

**I swim for the Borough of Stockton Swim Scheme (BOSSS) and train 5-6 days every week.**

In January, I competed in the Northumberland and District County Championships (N&D's) at Sunderland where I represented BOSSS along with my other team mates. Overall I had a successful Championship and qualified for the finals in my events, after achieving many 'personal bests' in the heats. During the competition I gained the title of County Champion in the following events: 100m Fly, 200m Fly & 100m Breaststroke. In May, I qualified for the North East Regional Championships (NER's) at Sheffield, again achieving many personal bests, several 4th places, 2 bronze medals in 50m Fly & 200m Fly and Gold (Regional Champion) in 100m Fly - for the first time in 3 years of taking part in these Championships!

Earlier this week I received confirmation that I have qualified for British Summer Championships in 100m Fly & 200m Fly and English Nationals in 200m Breaststroke, 200m IM, 400m IM & 50m Fly. These will take place in Sheffield during the summer holidays.

**Christa Wilson, 2C**



# Scuba Diving



**I would like to share my journey with you through my diving experience.**

When I was eleven years old my Dad organised a scuba diving party for me and my friends which was an awesome experience and gave me a taste of what being a scuba diver was like. It all took off from this one fantastic try-dive!

At the age of twelve, I joined a club called 'Scuba Diving for All' in Ripon which is a charity of its own and raises money to help able and disabled people in the water. I started my training as a PADI Junior Open Water Diver. Part way through my training we went on holiday to Corfu and my dad took me diving in the Mediterranean. I really enjoyed diving in the sea as the water was warm and clear and I saw lots of interesting fish and other aquatic life; it was so good that we have booked to back again this year.

After the holiday I completed my Open Water course and qualified at Capernwray Diving Centre in Lancashire which is an underwater theme park with lots of interesting things to see. I also dived to 18m and visited a Jumbo jet which lies on the bottom.

My adventure continued when we went to Eyemouth and dived in the North Sea; again there were lots of interesting things to see. Diving to 21m was very exciting and I qualified as a Junior Advanced Open Water Diver.

Being part of 'Scuba Diving for All' means that I also get to dive with disabled divers, some of whom are blind or suffer from various disabilities. This is a great experience for me and it is great to see people who would normally be excluded from this sport also enjoy swimming and breathing under water.

My diving adventure and training continued through this year and I have now completed an Emergency First Responder course and also qualified as a Junior Rescue diver. We recently dived again at Eyemouth but these dives weren't enjoyed as much because of the sea swell and a big current.

I absolutely love diving and I am currently training to become a Divemaster. Unfortunately I cannot hold the qualification until I am eighteen so I have plenty of time to practice before my exams. In the meantime I can enjoy diving and can have fun exploring under water!

**Yasmin Lennox, 2B**

# Music & Dance



**On Friday 18th March I travelled down to London to attend the UK's biggest dance event: Move It! There were shows on all day, on many different stages, including a freestyle stage. The show included people such as Twist and Pulse (who I was lucky enough to meet), Flawless from 'Britain's got Talent', Dance Moms and many more incredible performers, alongside all the dance colleges and schools from around London.**

I was booked into three classes: Cardio, Commercial with Wilkes Academy and another Commercial class with Tiffany Theatre College. When attending my Commercial class with Wilkes academy, I was completely overwhelmed when I was scouted for a scholarship audition with them. I had the best time in London and was so lucky to be at such an incredible event.

Also, my dance group, Switch Dance (which contains RGS students Amelia Dodds, Mia Nixon and Lois Wilson) were lucky enough to get through the audition for 'Britain Does Variety' in Leeds in March, which took us through to the regional finals in Dewsbury where we competed against many amazing singing, dancing and other talent acts. Our judges consisted of Syco agents, Talent managers, Thomson talent scouts and singing and dancing coaches. I also met Jack Walton from 'X-factor' who loved our group and performed there too. We were all lost for words when we won the regional finals, competing against twenty-seven other acts, taking us through to the National finals in London this June with judges such as Jaymi from Union J and CeCe Sammy.

**Krissy Ford, L6D**

## RGS Chamber Choir's Evensong in Durham and Ripon



**Ripon Grammar School's newly formed chamber choir consists of students from the fourth form to the upper-sixth and sings a wide range of repertoire from early plainsong responses to 1950's jazz.**

*RGS Chamber Choir inside Bede Chapel*

On 28th April, we sang Choral Evensong at Bede Chapel at the College of St Hild and St Bede, Durham University; a new experience for many and a valuable insight into the English tradition of choral singing. Upon arriving at the college, we were joined by Jessica Bryden, an old Riponian, who now studies music at Durham. For many of us, it was the first time we had sung in such a setting but we rose to the challenge and having such fantastic acoustics certainly helped to create the fantastic sound that was produced.. Some pieces were accompanied by an organ and some were unaccompanied, and having a variety of styles to tackle due to the fact that our repertoire was from a time period stretching hundreds of years, it certainly was a jump into the deep-end but it was very much worth it!

We were rewarded after the service when we had the opportunity to dine with college students and have a chance to see a snippet of real college life with a tour around the college campus where we learned about its history. The college came about after two colleges, The College of the Venerable



*Back Row: James Muscroft-Paylor, David Owens, Monty Merchie, Scott Place, Tom Lonsdale  
Front Row: Mr T Harper (Assistant Director of Music at Ripon Cathedral) Mr E Seymour (Director of Music at RGS)  
Emily Morell, Christie Hall, Beth Smart, Sophie Reed, Sofia Robinson, Joy Sutcliffe, Maria Scullion,  
Katharine Chatterton, Mr M Pearman (Headmaster)*

Bede (for men) and St Hild's College (for women) was amalgamated in 1975, though the colleges had been around for over a century prior to that. St Hild's College was the first college in Durham to have women graduates, the first three of which graduated in 1898.

Two weeks later, we were invited to sing choral evensong at Ripon Cathedral. Being part of a 500 year tradition in our local community was a privilege and it was fantastic to feel a part of our musical and cultural heritage.

**Joy Sutcliffe, L6E**

## Coca-Cola Enterprise Visit

**To enhance our understanding of industrial manufacturing processes, the sixth form students visited the Coca-Cola factory in Wakefield.**

A brief talk at the beginning of the tour gave us an insight into the brand of Coca-Cola, including the development of the bottle's iconic shape and the origin of the unique flavour. During this meeting we also learned about the different manufacturing techniques involved in the production of a bottle, from injection moulding the 'preform', to blow-moulding the bottle, to filling the bottle and securing the label. Following this, we were able to see several production lines within the factory itself, allowing us to appreciate the scale of production as well as seeing the bottle progress from the 'preform' to the final packed product ready for distribution. Finally we were able to view the automatic warehouse, a relatively new installation at the Wakefield plant. Overall it was a wonderful learning experience.

**Vicky Frost, U6A**



# Classics trip to Rome



**This was another really successful and enjoyable Classics trip. This time we had the added bonus of collaboration with the RE department which opened up some exciting non-Classical sites for us.**

As ever, we got to visit many spectacular sites in a really short time. Highlights included Pompeii where the students got a thorough tour of the site despite the labyrinthine system of closures and barricades of many of the main streets. The Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel were spectacular and we also had our first encounter with a legend in the tour guide world known as Fabio. Mumbling erudition combined with an obliviousness to where his tour party was, as well as a love of lasagne, are his trademarks!

Speaking of lasagne, we were treated to some wonderful pizza and also some dubious local delicacy which will stick in the mind long into the future I feel! Fascinating and spiritual experiences abounded on this trip as we were able to witness the somewhat eerie Easter parades in Sorrento and visit the catacombs of San Gennaro in Naples.

Our final day included a marathon tour of Rome – the Colosseum, Palatine and Forum in the morning and St Peter’s Basilica, the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon and the Spanish Steps in the afternoon. This was combined with a stop-off at a Gelateria which stocked a huge number of flavours.

I am confident that the students enjoyed the trip as much as I did and I would like to reiterate the staff’s compliments on how fantastic the students were. I am now looking forward to planning the Classics department’s next trip to Greece.

**Mr Weston**

## Alleyway Art



**During Enrichment sessions some of the lower-sixth form students having been participating in a public arts project. Working with an arts company ‘Creative Arts For:CE’ the students were given the opportunity to experience what it is like to follow a career within the art world.**

The students have been guided through the whole process of a public art project, starting with the research and planning. They decided that Ripon was in need of some colour and began planning an alleyway art project with an emphasis on community spirit. Also it was felt that it was very important to create work that would engage the community and which they could take part in.

Students worked together to create a brief and budget for the project and applied for funding through different types of sponsorship, even holding a successful bake sale.

As it was decided that this was a community project, students wanted the public’s views about what people think Ripon’s community spirit was and a survey went out to the public asking for their feedback. It was very evident from the information received that the Cathedral was deemed an integral part of Ripon’s identity.

Next came the exciting part... Creative Arts For:CE helped us to find an artist. We met with Alan Pegusey and he helped us to create the designs using the stories received from members of the public.

On Saturday 16th April we braved the cold weather to hold a community day in the market square. The students worked outside and numerous members of the public got involved with the painting.

The finished artwork is currently on display in front of the cathedral and in the arcade in Ripon city centre.

The students and I are so pleased at how these turned out and feel they have brought vibrancy and interest to the streets of Ripon. As well as contributing to the community, the students have also learned the fundamental workings of running a project from start to finish.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors on behalf of the students, as without your help this successful and exciting project would not have been possible.

**Mrs Garmory**



# RGS Time Capsule

**Girls at Ripon Grammar School joined thousands of boarders around the country to create a time capsule to mark National Boarding Week and the Golden Jubilee of the Boarding Schools' Association.**

Simultaneous burials took place across the UK with notes kept for future boarders to unearth and open the time capsules in 25 years' time.

Amy Goodwin, 13, of Potto, included an amusing account of boarding life for girls in Johnson House at Ripon Grammar School, which included information on current affairs including the EU referendum and the girls' predictions for what the future will be like.

She wrote to the finders: "We all agree that technology will have moved on loads. People think you travel around on hover boards and all own smart watches. We hope there will be world peace and that the boarding house doesn't have the same computers."

Amy ended her account: "My advice for enjoying boarding is just to be yourself. Have fun, enjoy life and stay true to yourself. Goodbye to the people of the future."

A school tie, a photograph of Johnson House, menus, a Year 8 timetable, a school calendar and an account by the head of house Ruth Smith were among other items included in the time capsule to reflect school life.

The girls also added a loom band bracelet with instructions, a tea bag, photocopied bank notes and a full set of coins, a page of logos for well-known brands, stamps and sweets.



*Ripon Grammar School boarders Amy Goodwin, 13, of Potto, Tabitha Milton, 13, of Sessay, Abigail Burke, 14, of Pilning, Bristol and Diyosa Mathew, 13, of Northallerton, bury their time capsule to mark 50 years of the Boarding Schools' Association*

They acknowledged their area with a Yorkshire Air Ambulance pin, the school's chosen charity, a tourist guide and a Ripon Hornblower wooden lucky penny.

Housemistress Helen Pickard added: "The BSA asked all boarding schools to join in and Ripon Grammar School is very happy to have played its part"

# The Duke of Edinburgh Award

**This year RGS students have taken part in multiple D of E expeditions in the Yorkshire Moors and Dales; depending on the level of the award they walk and camp for three to five days. The participants have to carry all their equipment with them and cook themselves a hot meal every evening on their camping stoves.**

Expeditions are not just limited to walking. It is possible to do the expedition on horseback and tandem bikes, and a team of lower-sixth students opted to canoe in the Lake District for their practice expedition and will later complete their award by canoeing the Caledonian Canal!

As well as the expedition, participants must learn a new skill which this year has ranged from baking to sign language for the hard of hearing. For the volunteering section of the award many students took part in the Oxfam club held at school which helped a local charity shop with everyday tasks and one-off events.

Miss Green, D of E Coordinator

**The Duke of Edinburgh award is a challenging yet thoroughly enjoyable experience. It comprises of four sections: physical, skill, volunteering and the expedition. For the physical section I chose swimming and for my volunteering I helped to teach children swimming every week.**

For each section there is a wide range of activities to choose from, including creative arts, media and communication, martial arts and extreme sports, which means you can easily find something that you will enjoy. You can also decide how long you spend on each section; two of the sections for three months and one for six months.

During the training weekend for the Bronze Award practice expedition we were taught a variety of skills such as how to take bearings, use a compass properly and navigate, as well as cooking on Trangia stoves and packing our rucksacks correctly. At the end of the weekend, we completed our route cards. We planned out the route that we would take each day and how long it was going to take us. We also had to factor in breaks and any meeting points. On 7 May we met up at Bewerley Park to collect the tents, Trangia cookers and any other equipment we needed for the weekend.



After a short minibus drive we arrived in Kirkby Malzeard and began our expedition. Following a long day walking across the moors we arrived at the campsite in Middlesmoor and set up our tents before cooking tea and getting ready for the next day. We met up with the Bewerley Park staff who had been supervising us and were briefed on the plans for day two.

The sun was shining the next morning as everyone woke up, began to cook breakfast and pack the camp away. Within an hour all the groups were ready for the day ahead. Our route on the second day took us alongside a beautiful reservoir and the sun shone all weekend so we could not have hoped for better weather. I am looking forward to completing my Bronze Award in July when I am to complete my qualifying expedition.

I would definitely recommend doing the Duke of Edinburgh award to anybody as it allows you to make new friends, as well as learning new skills and taking part in activities that you wouldn't have discovered otherwise.

Evie Withington, 4A

# News from the Parents' Association

**Fund raising this term has revolved around this year's raffle, and also a new event, the Wattbike Challenge, supplemented by refreshment sales and a cake stall.**

This great idea came from Sarah Newby, and was made possible by the extremely kind donation, from Dewi Winkle at the Ripon cycle studio, of his Wattbike facility for a whole day in June. 'Friends of Wine', opposite to them, were happy to lend us their outdoor space for our cake stall and refreshment stand.

We have also been busy planning a programme of events for the autumn term. In addition to the cheese and wine quiz and 'walkies' programme, we are hosting a comedy night in Bishop Monkton village hall on Saturday, 15 October. Tickets cost £20 and include a curry and pudding, available from reception from the beginning of next term. We have a fabulous line up of comedians - the last comedy night three years ago was a sell-out so don't miss this fun evening!

Stalls can now be booked for the Fairy Lit Christmas fair on 3 December. For further information contact emmaspick@hotmail.co.uk Last year the fair had nearly 400 visitors despite the horrendous weather.

**Do you have a number in the 200 Club? Don't forget, if you no longer have any children at RGS please contact Ele Hartas and give up your numbers! For everyone else, lots of numbers freed up every year so sign up to this simple "lottery" for only £1.25 per month per number and with twenty-four cash prizes a year. Application forms from Eleanor.hartas@hotmail.co.uk**



*Photo of outdoor furniture for Johnson House purchased by Parents' Association*



*Buzzing: Team Revelation with their trophies from the North Yorkshire round of Young Enterprise*

Managing director Will Stobbs, 17, said: "In the last round one judge came to each team, but this time all five judges came and asked us about our business, what our different roles were, our finances and any problems we'd encountered. It was quite tough."

Explaining how they had developed the business since the Harrogate district round, marketing manager Immie Bligh said: "We completely redesigned our stand, doubling the height of our display boards, adding a table with a hand-sewn cover and introducing baskets so it looked more professional and reflected the product better."

"We really want to win the national competition now. We think the environmental and educational elements are appealing to the judges. We have lots of different ideas to improve still further," added Immie.

With revenues topping £1,500, they had help from the school's bursar, as well as the continued support of their business mentor Richard Canham, of Vocalink.

The product, which was the idea of Will and Patrick Moon, provides a natural habitat for bees. It has been endorsed by Harrogate District Biodiversity Group and is being stocked by Ripon Walled Garden.

Will, Immie, Patrick and the rest of the team – Ben Wayne, Oscar Way, Lydia Pool, Mate Pocs, Roscoe Savage, Harry Whitworth, Oliver Craddock and Oliver Simenacz – hand-make the Bee Hotels themselves while studying for their AS level exams. They have also published an accompanying puzzle book for children, 'The Bees' Knees'.

Enterprise coordinator at Ripon Grammar School, Mr Walker said: "They have done a fantastic job, meeting every deadline and constantly developing the business so it's been a great learning experience for them."

"Only real commitment gets you this far. Patrick has an examination on the day of the regional final and his father is driving him over to Scunthorpe afterwards so he can be there, which is an example of how committed they are."

"This is the second year in a row we've had a team make the Yorkshire regional final and we've got everything crossed that we get to the national final this year."

*Unfortunately RGS did not progress to the National Finals but the product continues to sell very successfully.*

**The Bee Hotels and the book are available to buy from the company's website at [www.teamrevelation.jimdo.com](http://www.teamrevelation.jimdo.com)**

**Katie Veitch, L6B**

## Young Enterprise

**A team of young entrepreneurs are the pride of North Yorkshire after winning the county round of a national competition with their eco insect house business.**

Success keeps on coming for Team Revelation, from Ripon Grammar School, who are finding stockists, winning endorsements and generating more income for their Bee Hotel product.

They have also been on the road sharing their environmental message with children at Sharow Primary School, near Ripon, and selling out at Newby Hall Spring Plant Fair.

It is all adding to the experience they can share with judges when they compete against the best Young Enterprise Challenge teams in Yorkshire at the regional round in Scunthorpe, the winner of which goes to the national final in London.

As well as winning the overall North Yorkshire title against a number of independent schools, they were also recognised for the Best Presentation, the Best Environmental Product and the Best Financial Management at the county final, held at the Merchant Adventurers' Hall, in York.

# News From RGS Library

## A Wonderful Week of Words

June 13th - 17th was a step up from the average reading week at Ripon Grammar School. The theme was 'A Week of Words', which encompassed the following:

### Readathon

First to fourth form students took part in a sponsored read for the national Readathon organisation. This raises money for three charities focussed on seriously ill children - Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity, Together for Short Lives and CLIC Sargent for Children with cancer. Reading was encouraged during Form Time and students were asked to read at home and gather one or two sponsors. At the time of going to press the sponsor money was still to be collected, so we await the total raised with baited breath...

### A Wall of Words

Staff and students were invited to submit their favourite words to be displayed on the Wall of Words in the library. A fabulous selection was received, ranging from 'chicken', to 'disestablishmentarianism' to 'exacerbate'.



### SALAD Morning

We also held one of our regular SALAD sessions; SALAD stands for 'Speaking And Listening Active Development', which means that, wherever possible, the focus in lessons is on the spoken word, avoiding writing or typing. Lots of interesting lessons took place, such as fourth form 3-minute spoken presentations on their recent work experience placements and a discussion in PSChEe with the third form on the Law of Consent.

### Invent a Word

Inspired by Roald Dahl's wonderful made-up words, students attempted to invent new ones. 1D excelled with a fantasmagorical array of new vocabulary. Here are just a few:

**Omnimotion** - when you feel a mix of all the emotions at the same time

**Saffing** - sad laughing

**Awklnce** - an awkward silence when someone makes a joke and no-one laughs

**Idecho** - an idea or suggestion that someone has already recently said

**Grug** - a group hug

**Igglinghut** - a happy home



### Storyteller Visit

First form students had an extra treat when we were visited by Susanna Oldfield, a professional performance storyteller. Susanna has visited RGS before and always goes down a storm.



One lucky form group was able to take part in a workshop based on the tale of Jason and the Argonauts. Susanna first performed a story, leaving us rocking with laughter and amazed by her expressions and range of voices.

She then explained the concept of storytelling, as opposed to acting - the performer can be the narrator, but also becomes the characters themselves to deliver the story. The present tense is used to describe what is happening, rather than telling what happened in the past. Students worked in small groups to think of a new challenge for Jason to complete and to create freeze frames to tell their story. Finally, groups performed their tales for the rest of the class and Susanna was extremely impressed by the variety of stories invented and the quality of the performances.

Finally Susanna gave a performance for all of the first form students in the main hall. This time she told a well-known Russian fairy tale about the Firebird who stole the King's golden apples, and the attempts of the King's son, Ivan, to catch the Firebird by completing a series of tasks. Audience members took the main parts, guided by Susanna and wearing an interesting collection of props!

Here are some extracts from student reviews:

"On Wednesday 15th June 2016 Susanna Oldfield made a visit to Ripon Grammar School's first year students who came out of their school hall, after just forty minutes, buzzing with excitement" **Henrietta**

"Susanna began by singing an exciting Russian song to create the atmosphere of the story. Following on from her introduction, the storyteller immediately painted a picture of the first setting into every single pupil's mind, but not only telling the story in a passionate way, but by using wild gestures and body language to engage the audience into the tale. Although Susanna's arm movements did stir up a lot of giggles, the facial expressions of the storyteller had the entire room in fits of laughter." **Maddie**

"Another technique Oldfield uses is audience participation. This makes the audience feel incredibly engaged in the captivating story. The storyteller picks people out of the audience to play different characters in the folk tale. This also involves costumes, which makes the story even more hilarious." **Isabel**

"I would recommend it to anyone my age or less. I would definitely watch her again." **Sophie**

All in all the morning was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all those privileged to take part.

Mrs Dring



# Bewerley Park



## After an intense three days of examinations, respite in the form of plummeting off 10m poles and plunging into icy water was very welcome!

The activities at Bewerley Park ranged from high ropes to canoeing to mountain biking. One of the most popular activities was gorge scrambling; climbing over rocks and through the river. After first acclimatising to the freezing water, our wetsuit-clad groups scaled the rocks to take the 'death plunge'.

Canoeing and kayaking was also great; getting your vessel moving really helped build teamwork, whilst the friendly competition and vicious water fights were very enjoyable.

Perhaps one of the toughest activities was the mountain challenge, climbing either Pen-y-Ghent or walking to Malham Cove and Gordale Scar. The scenery was spectacular, especially as the weather was very sunny. The elation of reaching the summit of the peak with our group was fantastic, especially after helping each other scramble the steep rocky parts.

In the evenings, the teachers organised a games night, with each group competing in the 'fluffy bunny' challenge, filling your mouth with as many marshmallows as possible, welly-wanging and sketching the teachers in one minute. The other activity, organised by Miss Kirkman, was the newspaper fashion show. Each of the eleven groups had forty minutes to dress a male and female model in newspaper in the theme of 'under the sea'. The brave models then 'strutted their stuff' on the 'catwalk'.

The week was brilliant, and everyone had a really enjoyable time. It was a chance to push ourselves out of our comfort zone and bond with new people. Thank you very much to Bewerley Park staff and all the teachers who made it possible.

Phoebe Hall, 3A

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## Greenpower North East Heat - Croft Circuit

### By the time you read this we will have competed in the North East heat of the Greenpower Electric Racing Car Series.

This was held as usual at the Croft Motor Circuit, one of the team's favourites, having enjoyed success here on many occasions over the past fourteen years. The older team members will tell you that it always rains at Croft but last year we enjoyed glorious weather.

Both our current racing cars have undergone modification over the winter, partly to improve their performance but also to comply with recent changes to safety rules by Greenpower. The team spent a considerable amount of time replacing the compressible foam in the Carbon Comet's front "crumple zone" for one of a slightly higher density even though this has undergone impromptu live testing during races and proven to be more than adequate!

Our Greenpower Junior group (first years) have been so keen and able this year that we will probably run a team made up solely of them. They will drive our veteran Electric Chair car, probably the oldest car in the country still competing. Our more experienced Greenpower Seniors (second years upwards) will drive the more challenging Carbon Comet with its seven gears and greater potential for speed. In total twelve students will be able to drive during the two, ninety-minute races.

A good outcome for us at Croft would be that our team members enjoy a day of safe, fun racing and that at least one of our two cars qualifies for the National final at the Goodwood Motor Circuit in October.



We have managed to qualify for the last fourteen years but we were close to the bottom of the ladder last year. 'Probably about time that we completed our new car then!'

Mr Mann

# Photo Club



## Photo Club has been very busy this term.

As well as learning about macro photography, we have put our skills to good use by visiting the allotments and Eavestone Lake near Ripon. These were perfect opportunities to try out different themes in different settings, ensuring we had a range of photos to meet numerous competition briefs. The competitions we have entered include: The British Wildlife Photography Award, The Woodland Photographic Competition and RSPCA Young Photographer Award, with more in the pipeline for next year. Here are a selection of our competition entries.

Mrs Garmory



Erika Phillips



Erika Phillips



Eloise Forsyth



Eloise Forsyth

Eloise Forsyth has been selected as one of the 32 finalists. Her photo will be displayed in the Forestry Pavilion at the Great Yorkshire Show where visitors will vote for their favourite photographs during Tuesday 12 - Thursday 14 July, after which the winners will be announced.

Good luck Eloise.



Annabelle Patterson



Annabelle Patterson