

First Year History Trip to Richmond

A fun filled day with fascinating facts about two local medieval castles

National Mental Health Week

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School Officers

Meet the 12 new RGS School Officers for 2018/2019

Issue 50 Summer 2018

RGS News



Head Boy, Tom Mewes and Head Girl, Sola Sowole



WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER



Dear Parents,

Another packed programme awaits inside RGS News this term. As we speed towards the end of term, we look forward to events such as sports day, our commemoration service and Lower School prize giving. Trips are heading off to Normandy and Ecuador with World Challenge and no doubt we will have reports of these in the next edition.

One of the highlights of my term was visiting the Third Form at Beverley Park. As an outdoor education experience it was so good to see qualities such as teamwork, resilience and care for others feature so prominently in the activities planned. The students clearly gained a huge amount from the week, learning a lot about themselves in the process.

As we begin to look ahead to the new academic year, we say a fond farewell to our leavers this summer and also welcome our new starters attending the induction days. We also thank those leavers who have contributed to RGS News over the years and thank you as ever to this edition's young journalists, under the editorial eye of Mrs Hargraves.

Jonathan M Webb (Headmaster)

Recycling

With the consequences of human wastefulness of resources becoming more apparent every day, the school is taking pride in acknowledging their role in the promotion of recycling and reducing the waste which is sent to landfill.



Every year, the UK produces in excess of 100 million tonnes of waste, and every two hours we produce enough waste to fill the Albert Hall, London - it is estimated that at least 80% of our household waste could be either recycled or composted. This begs the question as to why we are not all being more proactive in learning to reduce the ways in which our lives negatively impact upon our environment.

This is why Ripon Grammar School has decided to change the way it deals with the food waste at both lunch and break times. Previously, all waste, both food and plastic, was put into the same rubbish bins, which meant that much opportunity was missed in order to create new from what we no longer needed. Now, students have been provided with two bins - one for general recycling, for the plastics, and another for general food waste. This means that the school will drastically reduce the amount of waste which it sends to landfill, whilst also positively influencing the recycling habits of the pupils, in order to raise a new generation which holds 'being green' central to it.

The initiative has seen promotion all around the school in the form of posters, which inform the students of which of the red and green bins is correct for their waste. In addition to this, the school prefects are able to assist students at lunch time by guiding them into placing their rubbish into the correct disposal bin, which has been extremely helpful to them. The scheme has seen great success so far, with the school's aims of becoming greener being fulfilled, supported by students and teachers, who all recognise the sincere importance of recycling for a sustainable planet.

Charlotte Meneely, L6C

FOURTH YEAR FRENCH EXCHANGE 2017/18



For the first half of the French Exchange I, and many others from the Fourth to Lower Sixth Form, went to Pont-l'Abbé d'Arnoult school, a few hours north of Bordeaux.

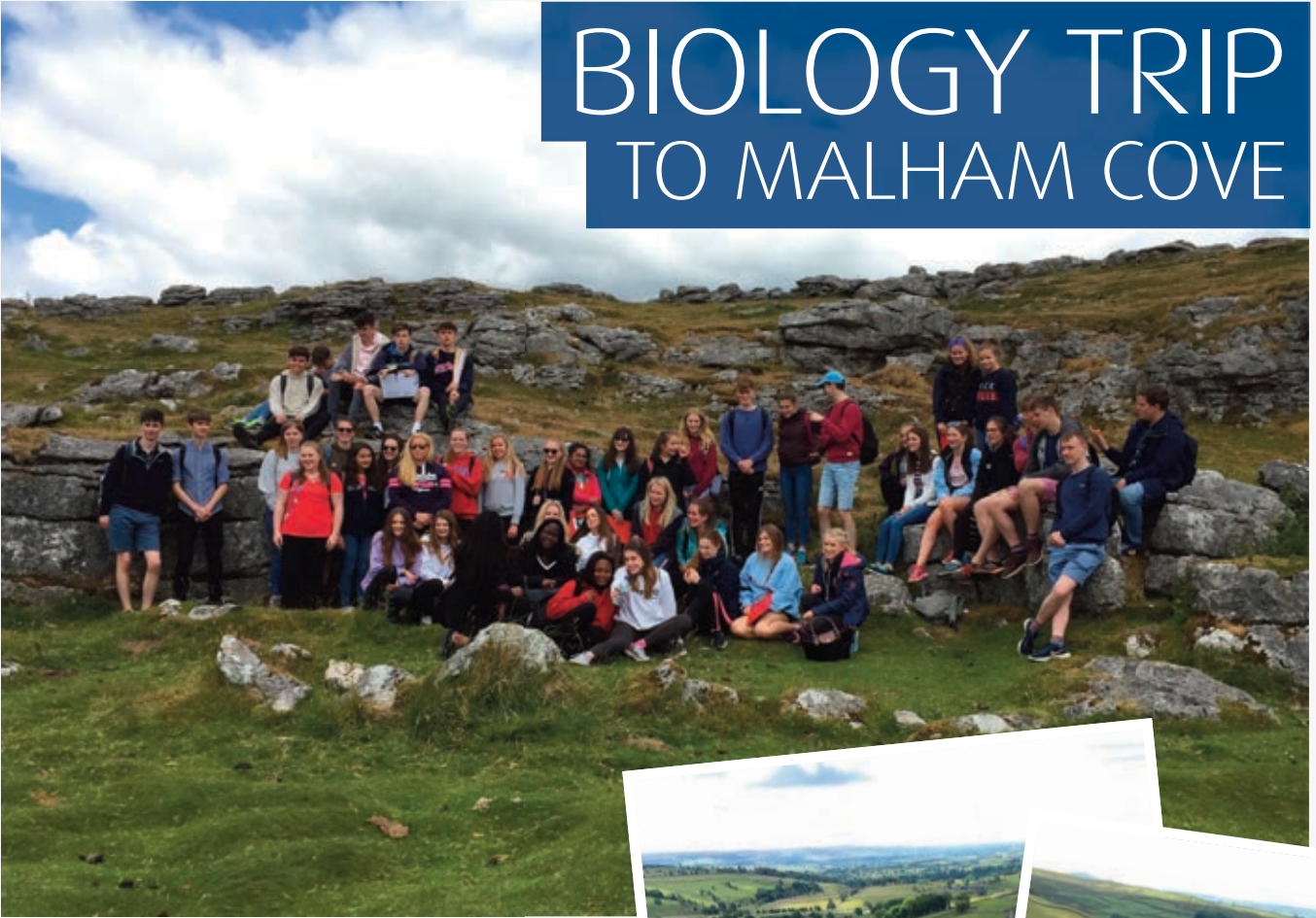
It was a terrific experience, with us all trying new culture, cuisine and most of all the language. Being close to the Atlantic coast, the food was very marine themed. The weather was better than here in Yorkshire, but as it was autumn it wasn't very warm. The area near the school we visited is a riveting place to visit and on one of the days we visited l'Hermione, a French replica battleship from the 18th century.

It wasn't until March that we saw our exchange partners again. This time it was their turn to visit a foreign country, and they had the idyllic setting of Ripon to welcome them to the UK. Unlike when we were in France, we didn't accompany them out on their day visit to York, although from what was said, all seemed to enjoy a day strolling around the city walls and chocolate factory. The day after their visit to York, the French students came into school in the morning, trying both lessons and sport in their time with us. The partners of the Fourth Form male students had incredible skill at basketball, and thoroughly enjoyed the games lesson.

Participating in the French exchange was a wonderful chance to try new vocabulary and language, and I would thoroughly recommend those wishing to pursue French GCSE or A-level to partake in the exchange programme if the chance arises.

Freddie Dunn, 4C

BIOLOGY TRIP TO MALHAM COVE



On 21 June, A-Level Biology students went to Malham Cove. On arriving at Malham, in the glorious sunshine after a fabulous journey with amazing views, we split into groups to sample some of the unique ecology in the area.

We began by making our way through the village, then we started our climb up the limestone pavement. It suddenly dawned on some of our fellow biologists that it was a bit of a steep climb up! After several 'pit stops' and smiles at members of the public who had somehow already made their way up, everyone made it to the top.

Our first task was to identify five species of plants growing on and in the pavement, and then collect data on the light intensity and temperature in different depths in the 'grykes' - crevasses in the pavement, which have formed due to weathering. We wanted to see what factors would affect their presence/absence from these grykes. We used light sensitive probes called 'logits' and had to be careful to measure each gryke in the same direction, without dropping them down a gryke! After a completing our first sampling task it was time for lunch with fabulously naturally shaped seats in the rock and which were surprisingly comfortable, and was well deserved.

During all of this we were treated to the sight of two peregrine falcons that emerged from their nest and gave us a fabulous aerial display.

We then collected ourselves together for a group photo and it was time for our walk down from the top. Unsurprisingly this was a lot quicker than the way up, helped with the promise of ice cream at the bottom. On the way down, we came across the RSPB who had set up telescopes pointing up to the peregrines' nest which gave another glimpse of the fabulous birds. After mobbing the ice cream shop in the most orderly fashion that any teenage group has ever done, we all gathered round the river with our Brymor ice cream and flakes. After a fabulous day in the sun, with biology interweaved throughout, it was a fabulous day. I think we'd all like to say a great thank you to Dr Linklater, Miss Hoskins, Mr Miller and Mrs Moon.

Charlotte Haslam, L6D





HISTORY TRIP TO RICHMOND CASTLE



On a bright and breezy Monday morning, all of the First Year set off for a fun filled day with fascinating facts about two local medieval castles:

Richmond castle, built by Alan Rufus in the 1070s, towered high above us as we arrived. When we entered the bailey, it all seemed like a field with ruins of the Lord's house being the only sign of habitation. We noticed the strange dips in the earth that had once been the wooden houses that had rotted away.

We saw amazing views of the fields and forests in front of us. We could also see the hill on which the first Middleham Castle stood - all that remained was a wooded motte, with only weird indentations to show where the keep had once stood. Our last stop was a statue of Richard III that showed him with roses and no arms!

When all was over, we went to buy some Brymor ice-cream before going home! Yummy!:)

Anna Bradley, 1A

At first glance, the castle seemed to have no motte. However, as we looked over the edge of the curtain wall, we found a steep incline down to the river Swale at the bottom of the intimidating, yet amazing, hill.

We explored the scenery of the bailey and learnt about which features were important to the castle such as the wall walk, arrow slits and the relative comfort of the Lord's house. The best part of Lord's residence was the small allotment that would keep everybody fed in case of a siege where rebels would surround the castle. The views from the keep's crenellations gave us the chance to discover the beauty of Richmond and its surrounding countryside.

Middleham castle, our second stop of the day and a contrast to Richmond, was also built by Alan Rufus, to pass down to his eldest son. Middleham is also famous as the childhood home of King Richard III.

Middleham castle is completely built of stone and there was so much of the awe inspiring ruin to uncover! However, what was left was only the inner part of the castle and the bailey was no longer visible. A deep ditch ran around the front of the castle and then mysteriously stopped (probably where the Bailey connected to the castle).

We explored what was left of the standing remains, the only building left standing included a tiny room (maybe the toilet). Outside, we saw the fascinating lines where the roofs of the other houses used to be. Also we saw blackened parts of the wall which would have held fireplaces. Some for living and keeping warm and the larger ones were the blacksmith's and the baker's, where there was even a small oven!

Inside the keep we visited a room which had massive circular pillars to keep up the floor that once held the main living space. After climbing lots of stairs we came to the main lookout.

The First Year's History trip was an amazing experience as well as an incredibly fun bonding trip.

Our first stop was at Richmond castle here we found out about all the interesting architecture. The historic monument helped us to understand how life was really like when it was built and lived in. The castle was in ruins so we had to use our imagination to picture the Medieval way of life. The goal was to survive. To have their own castle people had to be wealthy or to be a lord or strong fighter.

We went around the castle looking and learning about all the different things. I loved going to the top of the Keep!

All the day will be very useful for our history topic for the term which is on the study of castles.

To top it off, we went to Brymor to enjoy a well-deserved ice cream!

Lucy Laycock, 1B





GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO LIVERPOOL & FORMBY

On 14 June, A-Level geography students were to be seen at school in the early morning waiting to set off to collect data for our coursework.

We had a choice whether to look at regeneration strategies in Liverpool city centre or to collect data from the sand dunes at Crosby and Formby beaches.

On day one we went to the centre of Liverpool to visit regenerated sites such as the Albert Dock and Liverpool One. Students who based their coursework question on human geography asked questions to locals and assessed the several regeneration strategies against their effectiveness. It was interesting to see how they kept the culture of the dock area and incorporated lots of modern art around the City such as the 120 'Superlambananas'.

We then stayed the night in a youth hostel and enjoyed our evening meal in Pizza Express before returning to the hostel to all socialise in the common room.

On day two we were driven to Formby and Crosby; two seaside towns outlined with dune successions by the coast. Those focusing on physical geography then collected data by climbing over the huge dunes on a transect to take quadrat and various sorts of sensor readings for their own experiments.

The trip was a success for everyone; we really enjoyed our time experiencing both the vibrant life of Liverpool centre and the Sefton coastline for ourselves.

**Georgie Turner
and Libby Rickard, L6B**



National Mental Health Week

This year to celebrate National Mental Health Week, held from 14-18 May, RGS held their own mental wellbeing week in order to try and promote the view of mental health within the school; something that, as a Sixth Form, we feel passionately about.

Throughout the week there were lots of activities going on for students in school, including 'before school' meditation, form time reading, music at break, colouring, crafts, pilates and activities at lunch time and more meditation after school. The structure of assemblies was also different with student-led assemblies from the Sixth Form and Jess Parnell singing, Mrs Mackenzie also did some more upbeat assemblies for students in the lower years. All of these sessions had the objective to try and help students understand what exactly mental health is, what they can do about it, who they can talk to and ways in which they can try to improve their mental health.

With the legacy of both the outgoing and new school officers being to help improve the view of mental health and wellbeing with the school, the opportunity for both the Upper and Lower Sixth Forms to work together with staff and students from the rest of the school was welcomed. By organising the week's events and assemblies, we felt it fit perfectly with what we wanted to do to improve the perception of mental health. The aim of the week was to try and improve and educate people on mental health within the school and trying to make it less of a taboo subject for people to talk about, emphasising the message to the rest of the school that it is not only that one week in which we need to be mindful of everyone's mental health but that it is a continuing subject within the school community.

Specially designed badges were also sold within school as a lasting reminder about the importance of mental fitness and as a reminder on how to deal with stress. They read Resilience, Growth and Support and reflect the goal of improving mental fitness across the school.

Mental Health Week was also a major event across the whole country which focused on stress and how, as a country, we deal with it. Research by the Mental Health Foundation shows that around two-thirds of us will be affected by mental health problems in our lifetime, with a large proportion of these being related to the stresses of life, from day-to-day stress and more extreme events. Although stress itself is not a mental health problem, it can often result in anxiety disorders or depression if left unresolved.

In recent years there has been both more openness and research into mental health, allowing us to gain a clearer appreciation for how our society is affected by mental health problems. Research also suggests that problems with mental health are getting worse, especially amongst teenagers, with increased pressure from social media thought to be a contributing factor to higher levels of anxiety and depression. This means that encouraging mental fitness is especially important within schools as it enables people to learn more and improve their mental health at a time when they are likely to be experiencing these problems for the first time.

Simply being aware of mental health issues and having some way to tackle stress, as the focus on mental fitness has provided, means that we are better equipped to reverse these trends and become a healthier nation and community.

Louise Taylor, L6C



FRIENDS OF RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL



This term we have held a First Form competition to create a logo for the Friends of Ripon Grammar School and we would like to thank everyone who submitted a design.

We have some very artistic First Years, which made choosing the winner very difficult; a full list of winners is on the website. In the end we decided that James Wright's entry had fulfilled the brief. So many congratulations to James and Form 1A are the winners.

The other big event this term is the "Anything Goes" Grand Prize Draw. Thank you to all the parents who have sent in prizes and a huge thank you to everyone who has bought tickets. I would also like to thank the committee members who have made up the ticket packs and sent out letters to countless businesses. We have over 40 prizes to be won, from a meal cooked in your own home by private French chef, Yves Quemerais, a round of golf for 4 at Ripon City Golf Club, some fantastic work from local artisans and lots of days out just in time for the summer break. Check Facebook and the website for all the details.

We are all very excited by the launch in July of the CD of Christmas Choral Music recorded in the Cathedral by Mr Seymour. There are 11 tracks of Christmas Music performed by the school choirs and a recording of "God's Grandeur", the piece of music composed for Mr Pearman. More details can be found on the website including how to order.

We have some new events coming up next term including a Yorkshire Gin Fiesta with live music and street food in September, a First Year Family Quiz in October and a Cookery Demonstration by Yves Quemerais in November, so don't worry if you don't win the raffle prize you can still taste Yves' food!

We have also been spending some of the funds we raise, with the purchase of additional chairs and desks to be used in the sports hall by those taking A level and GCSE exams, the Careers department and Library have both received funds towards display equipment, we have made a contribution towards the replacement high jump mats just in time for the athletics season and we have bought the medals for the inaugural Sports Awards evening.

If you would like to get involved with the Friends of RGS we are holding an informal "meet the Friends" evening in September. At the end of each school year we lose Committee Members, bakers and helper so would appreciate any help you can give. I would like to thank Emma Pilkington for looking after our Facebook page and Emma Spick for organising the refreshments again this year and all the parents who have baked for us and served refreshments; your help is invaluable.

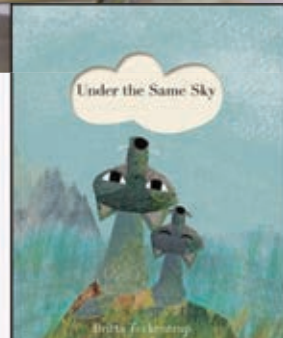
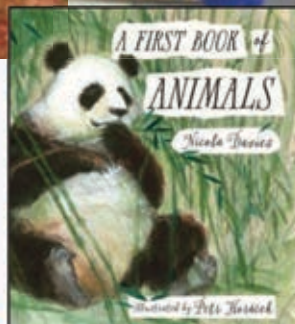
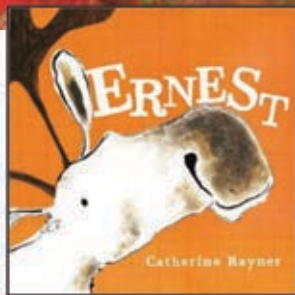
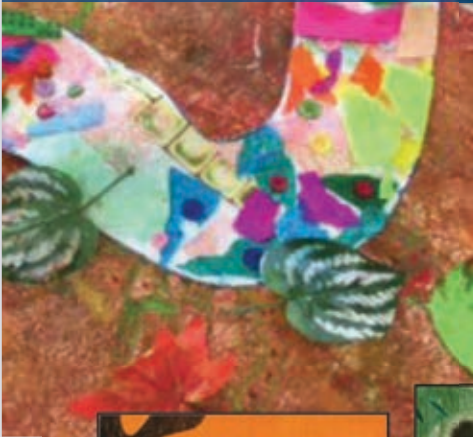
I hope you all have a lovely summer break.

200 CLUB WINNERS

February	1st 144 Eleanor Dewar	2nd 58 Barbara Llabata
March	1st 121 Fiona Laycock	2nd 185 Jackie Laycock
April	1st 195 Hannah Hughes	2nd 215 Joan Broadbank

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

LIBRARY NEWS



Art and Literacy Work Together

The Kate Greenaway Medal is awarded nationally each year for outstanding illustration in a children's book.

Judges are looking for a book which provides "pleasure from a stimulating and satisfying visual experience which leaves a lasting impression" and pay particular attention to the synergy between the graphic elements and any text that exists (<http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/greenaway.php>).

Following on from our STEM literacy sessions in the autumn term, I visited Markington C of E Primary School to work with their Year 4, 5 and 6 students on an activity based on Greenaway. We decided to focus on 4 picture books about animals which contained very different styles of illustration.

'Ernest', by Catherine Rayner, tells the story of a giant moose which can't fit into the pages of the storybook; 'A First Book of Animals', illustrated by Petr Horacek, is a beautiful encyclopaedia showcasing the wonder of the animal world; 'Under the Same Sky', by Britta Teckentrup is a simple, gentle picture book stressing how we experience many of the same hopes and dreams, no matter where we are in the world; and finally, 'Weasels', by Elys Dolan, is an extremely funny, comic-style story of weasels trying to take over the world.

Together we explored how the illustrators had reflected the ideas in the books - for example by their choice of medium, the shapes they used, or the colours they selected; we noticed where text was used as part of the picture or to give further information; and how the way in which a book was illustrated can draw us in and make us focus on something in particular. The Markington students were extremely perceptive, and they discussed and expressed their thoughts in an impressive manner. The 'First Book of Animals', with its beautiful, colourful, awe-inspiring pictures was a favourite, with the hilarious story of the 'Weasels' coming a close second.

To continue our exploration, students from Markington came to visit RGS and worked with Mrs Seymour and myself in the Art Department to become illustrators themselves. We based our idea on a page from the book, 'Ernest', where the artist has used a patchwork effect so that Ernest can fit onto the page, and decided to create our own group collage of a snake in the undergrowth.

There was a rota with three bases - one to use sponging to make the background, one using a variety of materials to make a patchwork snake, and the third with students thinking of 'snakey' words to write onto leaves.

I think you'll agree that the result is spectacular!

Back at Markington, the pupils are going to develop their literacy work based on the snake vocabulary and reflecting the verse format of the 'Animals' book - I am looking forward to seeing their efforts in due course.

Mrs Dring, Learning Resources Manager

Congratulations to Miss Hutchinson

Congratulations are due to my fantastic Library Assistant, Miss Hutchinson, on receiving her MSc qualification in Information Management (Library Management) from Northumbria University.

Miss Hutchinson has completed the distance learning course over the past two years whilst also working as a full-time Library Assistant AND as a house-parent in the girls' boarding house; multi-tasking at its best!

Well done - it is much deserved.

Mrs Dring





WORK EXPERIENCE

The week before summer half term, Fourth Form students spent a week working with a range of different employers in order to obtain experience of the careers that they are interested in having in the future.

5th Regiment Army Air Corps, Northern Ireland

Joshua Linegar had a great week with the 5th Regiment Army Air Corps. "I spent my work experience week with the 5th Regiment Army Air Corps. Sadly our flight was delayed so we ended up missing some of our tours around the camp but the rest of the week was packed full of things to do. For the first afternoon we were given a tour around the camp and a security brief of Northern Ireland. We met two men who talked to us about intelligence services there, which was a real eye opener to things you don't see on the news or in the media. After that we had a slot with a sergeant who taught us about life in the field and camouflaging. Here we trialled and tested rations and survival packs which to our surprise were better than expected. After a tiring first day we finished it off with a trip to the camp cinema which ended up to just be an opportunity for some much needed rest resulting in all three of us falling asleep in our seats.

We started the day on Tuesday at 7am and only an hour later went out for our first encounter with Army PT. This involved a squad run where we ran laps of the entire sports complex until we couldn't go any further. After this we returned to our rooms and washed up ready to start the day. We spent the day learning gun drill and the certain procedures needed by every infantry soldier. After this we were allowed special access to the virtual shooting range where we were tested with real rifles but

on a screen with simulated rounds. Only one out of the three of us passed the standard shooting test for entry to the Army so maybe a life in the infantry wasn't for us. Later on in the afternoon we made our way to the operations building where we were taught about what goes on behind the scenes before take-off and how routes are planned for the gazelle helicopters and islander and defender planes. Whilst we were there we also had a talk with the men who work in the Met Office and look after all the information to do with the weather and planning for forthcoming operations.

We began our final day by taking a look at the gazelle helicopters with 665 Squadron, where the engineers gave us an insightful talk on the inner workings of the helicopters and how they worked. We were also lucky enough to be able to use the surveillance cameras attached to the helicopters. We were told that the cameras were such high quality that they could pick out a finger print from 5,000 feet. Later in the day we then spent some time with the RAF members living on the base who showed us how the images were developed due to the fact that they are still taken on film rather than digitally. This squadron are the only ones to still use film rather than digital in all armed forces in the world.

Harrogate Theatre

Annabelle Paterson spent her work experience week in Harrogate Theatre, because of her interest in a creative career, and she said that: "The staff had kindly prepared an interesting and varied experience for me, beginning with the marketing team. I attended their weekly meeting, which opened my eyes to details such as how important colour choice is as colours have different associations which could influence whether a customer is tempted to watch the show or not. As well as this I spent time with the production crew and learnt a lot about how the lighting and sound is prepared prior a performance. Furthermore, I helped choose music for this year's forthcoming pantomime, a process which I thoroughly enjoyed. I also loved assisting with the Youth Theatre groups, especially as theatre in education and working with children are also areas of work that interest me. Finally, I was able to practice the communication and customer service skills required in the box office and front of house. Here I learnt how to advise people on the forthcoming shows and saw an innovative performance in the Studio Theatre.

I had a fabulous week with very friendly and supportive staff and would highly recommend this placement to students interested in the performing arts."

Stray FM

George Baker went to Stray FM for the week. "On Monday I started my week by introducing myself to the staff in a content meeting. I then spent time with different people such as the managing director. On Tuesday I watched Pete, a presenter, on air and he taught me the basics. Wednesday was very interesting as I spent time with Nathan, the video technician and interviewed people from the Knaresborough market for the Harrogate Council. On Friday I went to a house in Skelton on Ure to film a competition for the radio station where someone could win £1000 on Stray FM's local radio day!"

Morgan Stanley, Investment Bank

Freddie Dunn seemed to enjoy his week spent in London working with Morgan Stanley and he wrote this report: "For my work experience, I spent a week in London. Having arranged two two-day placements, I started work on the Tuesday with Morgan Stanley. Morgan Stanley is a trans-national investment bank, trading in equities, bonds and currency. I spent two days observing a number of different staff, discussing their career progression, and their roles within the company. I found their field of work to be interesting, and seeing the inner workings of a sector often vilified by the press was an interesting experience. The placement took a while to get to grips with, simply due to the level of technical vocabulary used in the industry. Having already aspired to working in the financial sector post education, this work experience placement confirmed to me that I wish to pursue it further. I thoroughly enjoyed my placement with Morgan Stanley, and I would encourage anyone seeking to work in a more exclusive sector, to just ask the question, and to be proactive in their work experience.

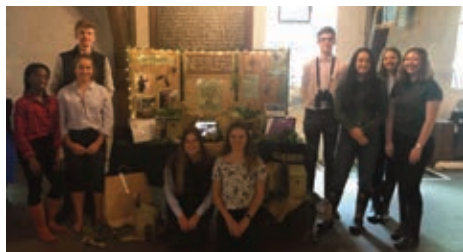
British Telecom

For the other two days in my work experience, I got to work with the legal team at British Telecom, and witness their struggle with GDPR. The experience was again different, with me spending time with different teams, consisting of litigation, corporate and commercial. This experience took me across the many BT offices in London, and it was truly eye-opening to see this element of a company. Given BT has one of the largest in house legal teams in the FTSE 100, I wasn't short of tasks to complete. I started working on tasks that they give to graduates to assess their capability, and I found this to be a wonderful introduction into the world of corporate law. I then moved on to reviewing a high court judgement, and assessing the impact of this. Working with several different teams allowed me to see their variations of Law and I was enthralled by the world in which they work."

YOUNG ENTERPRISE



On the 9th May both Young Enterprise teams, Nestlers and Praesidio both went to York for the North Yorkshire regional final of the Young Enterprise competition.



The day began with the teams arriving and setting up their stalls in the beautiful and historic Merchant Adventurers hall. The day itself was sponsored in part by the Merchant Adventurers of York who are now a charitable organisation and use the hall

as a museum. Since 1357 when the hall was first built it has played an important role in the history of the city. The Company of the Merchant Adventurers of York have used it as a base for their activities as well as providing parts of it for a sick house for the poor of the city.

Throughout the day the judges came and talked to each team individually, asking questions about the products, finances and organisation of each company. The questions aimed to find out which companies could be viable as businesses going forward and so had to find out the details of each company and search out the weaknesses in each company. There was also a focus on the values and motivations of the companies which were especially important to the Ripon Grammar teams as Nestlers had set up their company with the aim of helping at risk bird populations in the UK and Praesidio sells products aimed at protecting young people.

We then gave talks about our companies to guests, judges and other competitors. Nestlers chose to focus on their motivations for producing bird houses and the threat facing British birds, especially the House Sparrow whilst Praesidio primarily spoke about their experience as a business whilst still discussing the social importance of their drinks spiking tests. We also listened to the presentations made by other local teams, including one memorable presentation about two team members who had just gone on strike!

At the event, before the winners were announced a councillor and business man gave a talk about how he set up his own first aid business starting with buying just one ambulance. They then revealed who had been awarded the prizes. Nestle era received an award for their social, ethical and environmental actions whilst Praesidio came runners up to Nu-Leaf, the Ampleforth team which progressed to the national final.

For those who don't know, we are Praesidio, a student-run business who sell 'Drink Spike Detection Kits' and raises awareness for the issue of 'Drink Spiking'.



We recently attended the Area final of the Young Enterprise Challenge on 9 May to the Merchant Adventurers Hall in York. The day began by setting up our trade stand and giving individual talks to the judges who all came from different fields of work. By this stage in the competition our team's dynamic was very slick and we were all able to confidently talk about our areas of the business for sustained periods of time. After the interviews we gave a presentation to all the people involved in the competition, explaining our product and our journey.

At the end of the day, we came a very close second to Ampleforth School, which means we no longer continue under the terms of Young Enterprise, and although this is unfortunate, it does not mean we have to stop.

Everyone in the team has learned so much and we are all so passionate about our product and the issue we are raising awareness for. All the judges really liked our product and we received so much support hence why all of us in the company believe we should continue with our enterprise.

If anyone is interested in buying their own drink spike test or wants to find out more, feel free to email us on: george@praesidio.uk

George Vivian, L6F



PRINCE'S TRUST



Our RGS Prince's Trust team consists of Fifth Form and Lower Sixth Form students, who have been fundraising throughout the school year and have managed to raise our target of £1000.



This has been achieved through various bake sales and Christmas stalls where the crafts sold were all hand made and packaged by our team. We kept up tradition and sold candy canes and roses with personal messages, hand delivered at Christmas and Valentine's day. The final fundraiser involved

working with the local company 'UNamelt' to sell personalised sweatshirts, with the school logo on, to a wide variety of year groups and to Old Riponians. We also promoted the worthwhile cause of the Prince's Trust by giving talks to the two Rotarian groups of Ripon, who gave us a very kind donation.

The Prince's Trust helps young people to get into higher education and the workplace. It helps youths gain skills for the workplace through a wide variety of workshops. As a group, the challenge meant we could raise money to help people gain these 'soft skills', whilst we ourselves gained confidence and learnt key skills in sales, speaking to customers and banking. On behalf of our team, we wanted to say thank you to all students and parents who bought our products and helped us achieve our goal.

Natash Lovel, L6E



SCHOOL OFFICERS 2018/19

The recent appointment of the School Officers, after a long and difficult selection process with so many worthy candidates, has been a great achievement for us all; roles which we are very excited undertake.

This year the School Officer team has been expanded from a team of 7 students to represent the student body to a team of 12. Increasing the student body has helped allocate specific roles to each deputy position, which will run in alignment with the Legacy that our team is hoping to leave. We hope to lay a valuable foundation for these roles to continue in years to come and set a precedent for positive cooperation among a larger group.

In the past, we have been handed the baton by a group of amazing School Officers, who have been really passionate about sharing their advice with all of us and giving us an overview of what they were able to accomplish in the last year. Their legacy included: mental health awareness, political engagement, integration and increased sporting participation. This year we certainly saw the significant strides that the previous set of officers achieved in cementing the legacy they wanted to leave. The team of officers began a sixth form newsletter including a political column read by most of the sixth form in addition their was an attempt to increase mental health awareness with the use of posters which was further supported by the Mental Health week.

As School Officers we are taking inspiration from our counterparts further developing parts of their legacy, but also adding issues that we feel need to be addressed in school. Furthermore we have settled as a team on four main points for our legacy which are: improving the House system, Mental Health Awareness, Integration and Community outreach. We have decided these are important issues as we believe when achieved will greatly improve student life and well-being.

Re-energising the RGS house system is a goal we feel is really important, as a strong house system will boost student welfare and also tie in with improving integration in the school. Ideas so far range from house socials to new competitions that can appeal to a wider range of people other than just those interested in sport, such as photography and poetry competitions.



Further developing Mental Health awareness on the work that previous School officers have done is crucial, as it is an issue where conversation must always be open.

Our goal is to ensure the conversation towards mental health issues remains open and that students feel they have a strategy to tackle any problems they face.

A focus on integration between year groups and genders we feel can still be strengthened. This will help generate a stronger community in RGS, whereby students are closer together and encourages a more open community. This will help tackling mental health issues and run alongside our aims for the house system. We hope through creating a stronger relationship between Heads of houses and Junior House captains that we start to develop closer links between the lower and upper year groups at school that is further emulated in other activities.

Community outreach is essential as we as a team feel it is important to maintain a healthy relationship with those around the school. Relating well with the community also allows students to participate in activities around the community such as work experience and the opportunity to volunteer.

We hope to have a very productive year, and thank students and teachers for giving us the opportunity to perform these roles.

School Officers 2018-2019



The new school officers at Ripon Grammar School, left to right, Fin Procter, Harry Edwards, John Estensen, Gus Smith, Libby Rickard, Head Girl Sola Sowole, Head Boy Tom Mewes, Poppy Robinson, Georgie Turner, Louise Taylor, Emily Wilson and Dan Towler



**HEAD BOY:
TOM MEWES**

AS Subjects: Chemistry, Biology, Maths and Further Maths

Personally I believe that RGS could have a greater and more active involvement with the wider community; therefore I would like to see the introduction of some form of community outreach programme this year.



**HEAD GIRL:
SOLA SOWOLE**

AS Subjects: Maths, RE, Economics and History

This year I'd love to try to and increase integration between the year groups whereby students can share advice with one another.



**HEAD OF SCHOOL HOUSE:
JOHN ESTENSEN**

AS Subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Geography

I would like to see a competitive, enjoyable, and diverse house system integrated into the school community.



**HEAD OF PORTEUS HOUSE:
LIBBY RICKARD**

AS Subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Geography

I would like to see a stronger sense of community in the houses, and improving house identity.



**HEAD OF HUTTON HOUSE:
GUS SMITH**

AS Subjects: Maths, English, Economics and History

Next year I'd like to see newer events included in the regular house activities and become better publicised/attended such as but not limited to house debating and house quiz competitions.



**HEAD OF DE GREY HOUSE:
HARRY EDWARDS**

AS Subjects: Maths, RE, Economics and History

I am aiming to make available variety of House events which offer every student the opportunity to explore their extra-curricular interests within school.



**HEAD OF JOHNSON HOUSE (BOARDING):
EMILY WILSON**

AS Subjects: History, English, Art and Biology

I believe it is important to continue political engagement as an aim, which feeds into the need for increased cultural awareness and consideration of others.



**HEAD OF SCHOOL HOUSE (BOARDING):
FIN PROCTER**

AS Subjects: Biology, Art, Geography and Business

I hope that we can promote a better social life and community within the School Boarding House and ensure we maintain good communication between boarders and staff.



**HEAD OF PUBLICITY:
POPPY ROBINSON**

AS Subjects: History, English, Art and Maths

It would be great to spread the sense of community within our school through increasing responsibility and school involvement across the years.



**COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR:
GEORGIE TURNER**

AS Subjects: Chemistry, Geography, French and Maths

I'd love this year for the Old Rips to become a more vibrant aspect of RGS with more student-alumni interconnectivity for advice and inspiration.



**HEAD OF STUDENT WELFARE:
LOUISE TAYLOR**

AS Subjects: Chemistry, Biology, Spanish and Maths

As a school officer I would love to change the perception of mental health within the school and change the stigma surrounding it.

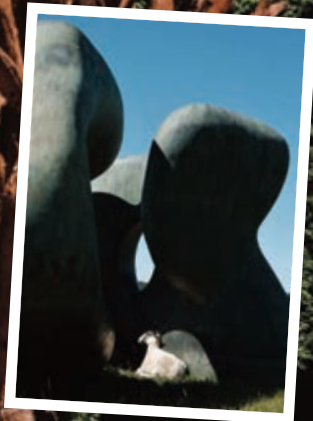


**NEW STUDENT ADVOCATE:
DAN TOWLER**

AS Subjects: Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Chemistry

I would love for next year's new students to have a smooth transition, integrate quickly and to engage and be influential within different aspects of the school.

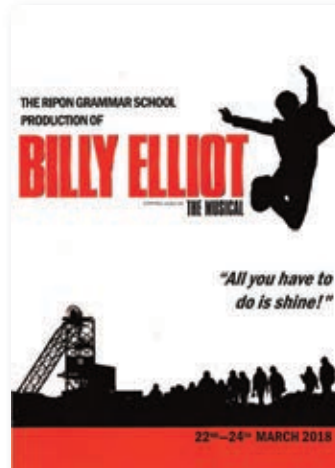
FOURTH YEAR SCULPTURE PARK VISIT 2018



As part of the GCSE course we visited the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. This year we were doubly fortunate, not only did we have the most beautiful weather but we had an encounter with one of the UK's most prestigious artist, Norman Ackroyd.

Mr Ackroyd, a member of the royal Academy and internationally famous saw the class working, drawing the Ai Weiwei 'Iron Tree' sculpture. He showed a real interest in the students' work and it developed into a mini demonstration and tutorial. The commitment and involvement from such a renowned artist shows how art can transcend the generations and passion can be communicated.

Mrs Henson



Do you remember the miners' strike of 1984? They say the past is a foreign country - they do things differently there. How far away does that period of British History seem? It was a time when 142,000 miners went on strike for over a year, determined to bring a government to its knees over the issue of pit closures and job losses. How far away does 1913 seem?

That was when one in ten working men were miners. Whole villages and towns revolved around the pit and its culture of the working mens' club, the boxing ring, the brass band and the village football or cricket side. Racing was at the dogs not the horses. With all deep coal pits now closed, the landscape of 2018 seems vastly different. Even Billy's street, used in the film, has since been demolished.

Of course the story of Billy Elliot is more than just about a miners strike. It's about the hopes and dreams of a young boy, who rejects the male stereotypes expected of him by his family. It's about a boy who dares to dream that he can do something different, be someone different - learn to dance, and who knows, dare to dream that he can dance for the Royal Ballet. The story is about cultural horizons, hopes and aspirations. But it's also about community, belonging and loss. You can take the ballet dancer out of a North East mining village, but you can't take the mining village out of the ballet dancer. In many ways schools are much the same. We can treasure the memories of those students who will inevitably leave us, but must realise that ultimately their hopes and dreams will take them elsewhere.

Billy Elliot of course started out as play by Lee Hall called *Dancer*, was transposed into a much-loved film in 2000 and became a musical in 2005 when Elton John added the music. There's humour, there's pathos, there's joy, but above all there's music and song. So to bring together acting, choreography and song into one creative piece is an incredible achievement. Whilst we can't always record individual thanks to all those in the production team, special mention must be made to Mrs Levahn who directed and choreographed the team so superbly and to Mrs Morpeth and Mr Seymour who were responsible for the musical direction. Heartfelt thanks must be given to all those staff who gave up their time so generously.

The production was a fitting showcase for the incredible creative talents which exist within the school, not just on stage but also musically in the band. There were some incredibly strong central performances from Elliot Hutchinson as Billy, [upon whose talent as a dancer and performer the production depended], Alfie McEvoy as Billy's father Jackie and Emily Reid as the brassy Mrs Wilkinson who inspires in Billy the chance the dream. How often do we sometimes trace the origins of our future to that inspirational teacher? But the central characters were also fantastically supported by some wonderful supporting roles. Who can forget the beauty of Jessica Parnell's and Katherine Chatterton's singing as Billy's grandma and late mother respectively? Or perhaps the intensity of Finlay Atkinson's anger as Billy's brother and the sheer jaunty humour of Nat Ireland as the cross-dressing Michael as Billy's friend?

Above all it was wonderful see how all the cast drew on their inner confidence to perform on stage. Perhaps for some it was an opportunity to push their creative talents beyond what they have hitherto done. That's the beauty of a school production - bringing together students in a spirit of hard work and cooperation. It was a memorable night.

Mr Webb

MUSIC



All participation singers pose for photo after completing the final takes for the CD recording

Producer Howard Seymour

Monday lunchtime recitals

Whilst we were rehearsing and preparing for the roaring, foot-tapping success that was Billy Elliot all our ensembles and choirs were rehearsing as normal. Our big project following the Easter break was for the choirs to record a CD of Christmas choral music.

During the previous term, time was spent re-learning and polishing up music from the last four carol services. All school choirs recorded at least one track on their own and there are several tracks of combined choir pieces. We also took the opportunity to record God's Grandeur, the piece commissioned for Mr Pearman's retirement. The composer, Philip Wilby sat in on the recording session and wrote to the choir the next day:

You would think that fifty years of writing music would have prepared me for the surprise.....

However, the performance of God's Grandeur in the stalls with the full resource of the Cathedral organ was absolutely epic!

Many thanks to the singers, such a great group and long may it thrive!

The recording sessions were overseen by our producer, Howard Seymour. He came with a wealth of experience working with school choirs and has produced several commercial recordings in the past. He certainly put the choir through its paces and ensured they gave the very best of themselves and the music. Howard couldn't make the final session but wrote to the choir, saying:

I write to say how impressed I have been by the standard of your singing. There can be few school choirs capable of matching your achievements.

I hope that when you hear the final result and are the proud possessors of the splendid CD you will be inspired to keep up the good work by committing yourselves loyally to those all important rehearsals which enable it all to happen.

The recording is now complete and edited. The CD booklet is being worked on and we hope to be able to release the disc in the autumn term. We were fortunate to secure the skills of Charlie Brown, a sound engineer living near Ripon, Tim Harper (Organist at Ripon Cathedral) and the use of Ripon Cathedral over three evenings. We are hugely grateful to the Friends of Ripon Grammar School for financing the project.

Another initiative of the Summer term is our Monday lunchtime recitals. These are very informal, 30 minute recitals given by members of the lower and upper school. It gives students a platform to play pieces they are preparing in an informal and friendly atmosphere. These have been staged every Monday during the Summer term and will continue in the Autumn.

As I write, we are gearing up for our Open Evening with music provided by the Big Band, the Summer concert, where all groups will perform and we can award the coveted Music Colours, and finally the Commemoration Service, bringing all choirs and brass together for one last big choral and instrumental feast.

My sincere thanks to Mrs Morpeth, Tilly Fallows, the peripatetic music teachers, and all the students for everything they have done to make this yet another successful year of music making.

For more information about current and future events follow us on Twitter @RiponMusic

Mr Seymour

Student Success - Wharfedale Festival

From 8 - 11 May the Upstage Academy of Performing Arts, Ripon attended the Wharfedale Speech and Drama Festival; with seven Ripon Grammar School students taking part in both solo and group pieces which were organised by themselves and the academy.

They were entered into nine categories and placed First to Third in all of them, a brilliant feat. In the solo categories Emily Koscik-Jones, out of thirteen students, came Third with Distinction, and Isabella Withy too came a superb Third out of fifteen students in her category. Notably Carys Peedell did extremely well, and came Second in her Shakespeare category, and went on to win best solo



performance of the entire festival and gain a scholarship for a week's intensive professional training in Lincoln this summer.

In the group pieces the academy won all three group 'theatre time activities'. RGS students Carys Peedell, Annabelle Paterson, India Wilkinson, Tehya Sutton and Emily Koscik-Jones performed their group piece 'Chocolate Heaven' and were awarded First place, out-performing eight other schools. In another group piece Isabella Withy and Amber Stevenson-Mian won not only First place and an Outstanding, but also the award for the most outstanding performance of the entire festival.

Well done for these remarkable achievements!

Poppy Robinson, L6B

SPORT NEWS



Rugby

U18 Girls

The U18s Girls rugby team were not to be outdone as they followed up the boys county cup win with an equally impressive showing in the girls Yorkshire School's finals. The girls took on reigning champions Settle College in a best of three game mini-series, the RGS girls did not have the best of starts as they lost the first game by two scores, leaving them with a lot to do. The second game looked to heading in the same direction but some fierce defence from Niamh Frost and great breaks from Jess Merrin overturned a one score deficit to win the game two tries to one. This all set up a final game decider and the RGS girls were simply unstoppable, wonderfully led by captain Maya Mellor and various plays co-ordinated by scrum half Abi Lovell, the girls ran in try after try and won the game eight scores to one and were crowned Yorkshire Champions.

U15

The U15 boys are also commended on their tremendous performance in winning the Rugby 7's competition beating Ilkley Grammar School.



Yorkshire Rugby Awards

The school rugby programme and staff as a result of their fantastic season were nominated for the Spirit of Rugby Award at the Yorkshire Rugby Award dinner. This is an impressive achievement for the school to be chosen from all across Yorkshire. The Award evening took place on the 3rd of June where the school was represented by Mr Milner and Mr Harding.



Mr Milner (left),
Mr Harding (right)



Karate

Jake Hanson has competed in the World Championships. Alongside his team Jake has won a bronze medal. Here is his story:



My name is Jake. I am in First Year and I'm a member of the Karate Dojo, Ripon. This year, I had the honour of being selected to represent England at the 9th World Shotokan Federation Championships in Istanbul, Turkey, along with my team mates. The competition was held over 3 days, but we did get one day to relax before the event. We went to the Grand Bazaar and also took a look around the Blue Mosque in the heart of Istanbul.

We were among around another 30 countries which were also represented. I competed in 5 categories; Kata, Team Kata, Kumite, Team Kumite and Ippon Kumite. Kata is a combination of various moves put together and kumite is using those moves sparring/fighting. Ippon Kumite is a single point round so 1st competitor to score a point wins. In standard kumite the winner is the 1st to score 8 points.

I was first in my squad to compete on the Friday in Kata and Kumite, the standard of the other competitors was extremely high and it was really tough. I also competed the following day with my team mates Ethan and Brooke in the team events. It was on this day that we achieved a Bronze medal in Team Kata which was a fantastic feeling.

The rest of the weekend was spent supporting my other team mates.

If I were to describe the weekend as a whole I would describe it as long one, very tiring as we were sometimes in the hall until late at night, but most of all good experience with a great team.

Football

The U16's have for the first time reached the Area cup final.

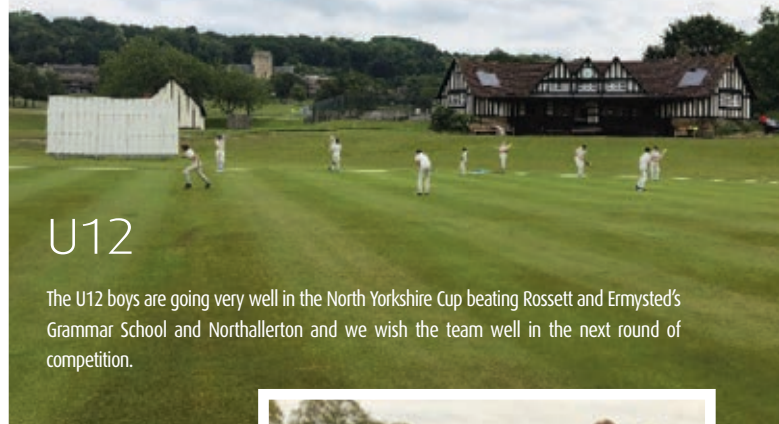
This is a superb achievement for all the boys taking part. Their hard work and determination is certainly paying off.

Rounders

The U12 and U13 A and B teams were both in action in four games against Cundall Manor.

The U13 A and B teams were triumphant achieving impressive wins over Cundall Manor. The U12 A team drew against their opponents while the B team lost narrowly by a rounder. Well done to all the girls involved.

Cricket



U12

The U12 boys are going very well in the North Yorkshire Cup beating Rossett and Ermysted's Grammar School and Northallerton and we wish the team well in the next round of competition.

U13

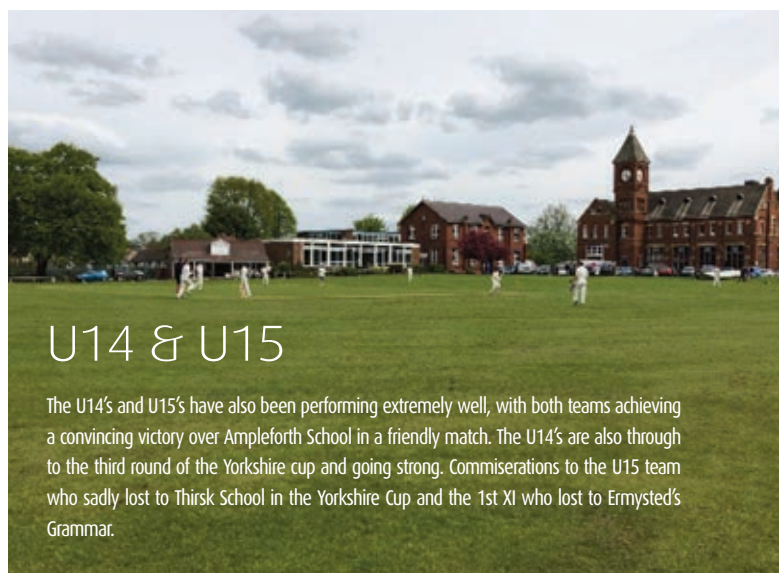
The U13 boys are following suit with the team progressing forward in the Yorkshire Cup, beating Thirsk and Nidderdale. The team will face Harrogate Grammar School in the next round of the competition.



The U13 girl team competed in their first ever match against St Aidan's School and won. We are thrilled the girls have had this opportunity and have gained a lot of experience from the match.



U13 Cricket squad



U14 & U15

The U14's and U15's have also been performing extremely well, with both teams achieving a convincing victory over Ampleforth School in a friendly match. The U14's are also through to the third round of the Yorkshire cup and going strong. Commiserations to the U15 team who sadly lost to Thirsk School in the Yorkshire Cup and the 1st XI who lost to Ermysted's Grammar.



It's been a record breaking season for Ripon Grammar Schools 1st XV Rugby side who for the first time in the school's history have been crowned Yorkshire Cup Champions after beating long term rivals Crossley Heath, Halifax by an impressive 31-5 score line.

It was fitting end to a great season, with the side also reaching the U18 National Schools Vase semi-finals, beating teams such as Ampleforth, Yarm and Worksop College along the way resulting in a trip to Saracens Allianz Park where Ripon were sadly beaten by Wirral Grammar School 21-17. Congratulations to our 1st XV who travelled to Rodillian, Wakefield for the Yorkshire Cup Final where they gained a convincing victory, beating Crossley Heath with an impressive score of 35-5. It was certainly great to end the season on a high point, following their collection of impressive wins throughout the year and outstanding progress in the U18s NatWest schools cup where they reached the semi-finals, playing at the Allianz Stadium only to be narrowly

defeated by Wirral Grammar 21-17. The U6th players will surely be missed next season following their incredible commitment to the team throughout their time at Ripon Grammar School, none more so than Captain James Willis. Looking forwards, the team concluded the season with the annual handing over of the captaincy, and Ted Wainwright will hold the reins next year. It is clear that this success would not be possible without the support and commitment of Mr Margerison, Mr Miller, Mr Milner and Mr Harding who have certainly gone above and beyond for the team. We look forward to seeing what next season holds.

Player of the season - Joe Scatchard Most improved - Oli Munroe



The Ripon Grammar School's swimming team has had a very successful season with the team competing and winning swimming galas against St Peter's, the Grammar School at Leeds, Ashville College and Harrogate Ladies' College.

The team narrowly missed out on winning the Leeds and Ilkley are tournament by 2 points. Well done to all the swimmers, this remains an amazing achievement. We hope to enter the school in the English Schools Swimming Association.

Swimming

Glasgow International Swim Meet

I recently competed in The Glasgow International Swim Meet, which took place at Tollcross International Swimming Centre, Glasgow, 25th - 27th May.

The event attracted world class international athletes including Olympians, Hannah Miley, Amy Willmott, Ross Murdoch and Duncan Scott.

I competed in five events: 200m Butterfly, 100m Butterfly, 50m Butterfly, 400m Individual Medley and 200m Individual Medley, qualifying for the finals in all events.

My highlights of the meet were qualifying for the 200m Butterfly A final, achieving Third place in the 400m Individual Medley B final and winning the 100m Butterfly Junior final.

I have also received confirmation that due to my achievements at Glasgow I have qualified for British Summer Nationals in 200m Butterfly, 100m Butterfly and 400m Individual Medley. I have also qualified for English Nationals in 50m Butterfly and 200m Individual Medley. These prestigious events take place during July and August at Sheffield.

Christa Wilson, 4E



Anika Swarze-Chintapatla and Helena De Costa



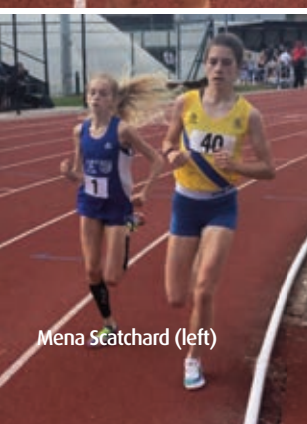
Sola Sowole



Abi Knowles



Marnie Scatchard



Mena Scatchard (left)



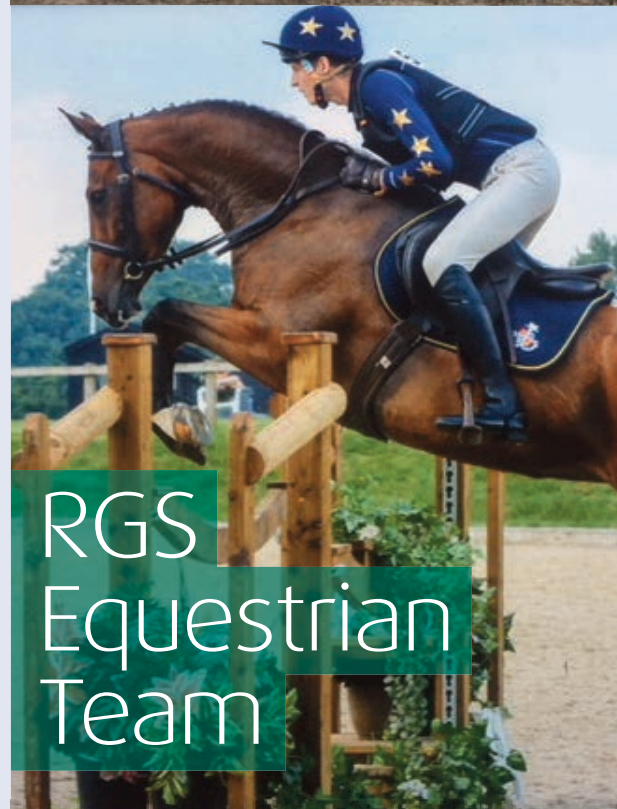
Emma Ibbertson

Athletics

After qualifying through the Harrogate and Craven round, 7 students competed in the North Yorkshire round of the English Schools Track and Field competition.

The athletes were treated a beautiful day of competition with Ripon Grammar well represented in the Harrogate and Craven team. From these students who competed there were some great performances with five County champions in Helena de Costa (200 and 300 meters) and Sola Sowole (100 meters), Emma Ibbotson (300m) and Mena Scatchard (800m). There were also notable performances from Anika Schwarze-Chintapatla, Verity Langdale and Abi Knowles. As a result of performances over the season so far and in this competition, Maya Mellor, Mena Scatchard and Sola Sowole in the discus, 800 meters and 100 meters respectively have been selected to represent North Yorkshire against all other counties in the English Schools Athletics Track and Field competition on the 13th -14th July.

Then onto the Track and Field Cup competition in which four teams were entered. We are very pleased for the Junior Girls team who have qualified for the Regional Girls A Final, a first in the school and also the Inter girls team who have made it through to the Regional Girls B Final. We wish all of these girls well in their finals and hope they progress to the next round, which is the National Final which would be another huge achievement. The Junior girls did fantastically well at the regional A finals finishing runners up and wait to see if they have qualified for nationals.



RGS Equestrian Team

We have entered lots of events this year and have a keen junior team. We have competed in dressage, arena eventing, one day events and show jumping.



The teams have had a very successful year. The show jumping team qualified for the national championships, and Izzy Royston, Izzy Bean and Izzy Kirby were placed fourth in their class. The dressage team came fourth regionally, and the show jumping team came second.

We have also had some great individual performances: Izzy Kirby has been placed second in the dressage and second in the show jumping.

She also came second in her Jumping with Style class and will represent the school and the county at the Show Jumping finals in Buckinghamshire in October.

Lizzie Ball and Alexander Abrahams both won their classes and qualified for the Show Jumping finals. Eddie Henson qualified to represent the school at Hickstead in arena eventing, where he came a respectable ninth nationally.

Well done to all those who have competed this year and we look forward to a successful 2019 season. RGS has been represented by Chessie Abrahams, Lucy Brown, Izzy Kirby, Eddie Henson, George White, Izzy Bean, Izzy Royston, Zander Abrahams and Lizzie Ball.

Mrs Henson



THIRD FORM TRIP TO BEWERLEY PARK

“As a student who joined RGS in the Third Form, the Bewerley Park experience was a real confidence boost and allowed me to get to know my year group through different team building exercises.” Here is a description from one of the Third Form on his recent visit to Bewerley Park.

“On 14th May, my year set off on our buses, anxious yet excited for the week ahead of us. Little did we know how tired we would be at the end of the trip! However we were looking forward to the wide range of activities in store for us. Each day had a new challenge to enjoy. In my group we had bouldering on Monday, walking up to Simon’s Seat on Tuesday, canoeing on Wednesday, gorge scrambling and high ropes on the Thursday, and finally B.O.B (Bewerley Outdoor Business) on Friday.

Before then I hadn’t set my expectations too high. As a very introverted person, I am usually quite content staying at home to have fun. However, I made some new friends as I met a lot of new



people in my dorm and group. I found that once the week was over, I had learnt to be more open minded to new things – I was definitely proud of myself after the week.

Second years, you may not look forward to the trip or enjoy it at the time, but I can promise that you will feel incredibly satisfied. I hope you have an excellent time next year and that you push yourselves and learn something new.”

Ronnie Mann, 3C, Natasha Lovel, L6E

RGS Student Essay Prize success

Ripon Grammar School has had yet another year of success, with members of the Lower Sixth Form doing terrifically well.

Students achieved both wins and commendations in the annual essay competitions, hosted by some of the most prestigious universities in the United Kingdom, such as Oxford and Cambridge. Prizes can be open strictly to students of the United Kingdom, but also globally, making the competition strong and the standard of entry extremely high, attributing further to the immense credibility of such achievement.

One such success has been attained by Gus Smith, who won first prize for his response to the essay set by Corpus Christi, Cambridge, in economics; the question involved debating as to whether a universal basic income is the best way to combat rising inequalities. Humbled by his win, Gus explained that he found writing the essay to be a very rewarding experience, particularly as he held a deep interest in the subject of economics prior to entering for the prize, which made writing the 3,500 words on the subject compelling. The essay required hard work and extensive research, with Gus telling that a lot of effort went in to crafting his essay to ensure that he was completely satisfied with his final product. Surprised by his win, Gus not only carries the prestige of winning the competition, but was also rewarded with a prize fund for his achievement, by the college.

Winners of the competition are invited to the university to receive their prize, which entailed a six hour round trip for Gus and his mother, who he attended the event with, on the 5th of May. Gus told that the experience was incredible, and that the presentation was wonderful to attend. Whilst at the university, Gus attended a lunch with students who had won other essay

prizes set by Corpus Christi, and remarked that conversing with them was interesting, as the students were all very knowledgeable in their fields of interest.

Although Gus is not planning to apply to this specific college, the experience has propelled him to continue to pursue his interest in economics, aspiring to read this subject, or one closely related, at university, after completion of A Levels.

Triumph was also seen by Poppy Jagger, also in the Lower Sixth, who received a high commendation for her entry, also to a Corpus Christi prize. Poppy’s chosen essay question held focus upon whether public policy should be decided by national referendums, which she found to be fascinating as a question and captivating to write. With a fervent interest in the subject already, Poppy said the essay was a pleasure to pursue and enjoyed the abstract thinking required for her success. Engagement in the competition, Poppy explained, enabled her to further develop her skills and opinions, perfectly aligning her to continue her venture into politics and her aim to study Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) at degree level.

Charlotte Meneely, L6C



DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION IMPOSSIBLE

During the Easter holidays, four groups of apprehensive Lower Sixth form students met on a dull and foggy morning in a lay-by just outside Wensley, rucksacks crammed full and spirits the highest they would be for the next four days, as we embarked upon our Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award practice expedition.

Each student was clad in waterproof armour and weighed down by rucksacks which seemed to match our body weight. This seemed like nothing, however, by the time tents, fuel and Trangias (camping stoves) had been added to the load, and we were sent on our way by a merry Mr Highton.

The first stretch of the expedition lured us into a false sense of security, as the relatively easy walk up to Castle Bolton was largely flat and uneventful. We stopped for lunch outside the castle, and then the real challenge began. We ascended into the fog behind the village, and soon we were submerged in cloud and therefore both soaked and unable to see more than ten feet ahead of us. The density of the fog was particularly frustrating as the moment we reached what we thought was the summit of the hill, it became apparent that we had at least the same distance again to climb. This process must have been repeated at least four times, and it was at this point that we got a real sense of what the rest of the challenge would be like. We spent the rest of the day in the thick fog, and by the time we reached the camp site at Reeth that night, we were thoroughly exhausted and dreading the next three days.

Day two offered similar conditions, but this time there was the exciting addition of snowdrifts and rain to the miserable mixture of fog and cold. At the highest points of the walk, the snow was at least a foot thick, although luckily no more actually fell that day. Descending didn't bring much relief, however, as we experienced driving rain as we eased down the steep side of the valley to the old Gunnerside Gill lead mines and back up the other side. From there we continued to Keld campsite, where we spent the night.

Fortunately, day three was the easiest of the four days, which was a relief after the struggle of the previous days. From Keld we walked through Swaledale to Muker, then up Great Shunner Fell, which thankfully wasn't as steep as we had been led to believe! The fog seemed to disappear for a while, however at the top of the fell and for a length of the descent it returned with a vengeance. We finished the third day at Hardraw with a welcome meal of pasta followed by marshmallows and the first mild night of the expedition.

On the last day, the rain and fog finally dissipated and the walk back to Castle Bolton was bright and warm. We must have been within half a mile of the end when we managed to get lost for the first time in four days, and it felt particularly cruel as we could see the castle but were cut off from it by a steep bank and a barbed wire fence. Somehow, we managed to find a way round this, but that extra three quarters of an hour added onto an exhausting four days was an unwelcome end to our practice expedition! After living off squeezey cheese and jelly cubes for so long, the thought of a good meal and a real bed drew us like magnets to the minibus. Of course, the highlight was leaving with the knowledge that we would have to do it all again in July!

Isobel Bremner, L6E



ART EXAMINATIONS

Art students doing GCSE, AS and A2 level examinations have completed their final piece to conclude their course, ranging from landscape to portraiture and cubism to realism.

The quality of the work has yet again been outstanding and the variation in style and technique makes for an interesting selection of paintings and drawings. Sketchbooks and pieces are evidently highly impressive as shown in these pictures of some of the work.

Emily Wilson, L6A

