

RGS news

WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents

A term which has lived up to its title. Following an exceptionally mild January, it has felt like a Spring term for once!

However the very short term has meant a high tempo to events, but the term has been an enjoyable one and much has been achieved.

The foundations are in place for the new classroom block and I very much hope that the new classrooms will be available for the beginning of the new academic year - weather permitting! I know the maths department are already looking forward to moving in there! This will enable some rationalisation of existing accommodation to bring departments together and to group teaching rooms for the same subject close to each other. Planning permission for the sports hall has been delayed and it will be heard in April - fingers crossed that it will be successful, and that permission will be granted. Around £400,000 will need to be raised for us to realise the project and I know I will be relying on any help and support from as many people as possible, including parents. This facility is much needed at school, and it will cement our relationship with the community. The Old Riponians have been successful in their bid through the 'awards for all' scheme in securing £10,000 for the observatory to support teaching within the school but also to be available for groups in the community to use. I hope many parents will be able to become involved in the astronomy clubs which will use this facility here at school. My sincere thanks to the Old Riponians, and in particular to Mrs. Bellamy, for working so hard on behalf of the school and its former students.

Mr. Auger, currently Head of Mathematics and member of the leadership team at Wetherby High School, has been appointed as an Assistant Head to replace Dr. Saunders in September 2007. Mrs. Bradley who has made an excellent contribution to the administration team, left during the term and is replaced by Mrs. Taylor. The Head of Physics interviews take place later this term, and the personal development curriculum coordinator (PDCC), who will oversee the careers work in school, will be appointed early next term.

The charity for the coming year has been chosen - it will be The Cystic Fibrosis Trust. It has been chosen early to enable several lower sixth students to get fit to do the Great North Run to raise money for the charity. I am delighted that they have shown such initiative.

There was a very successful chemistry demonstration enjoyed by local primary schools and our own first form, as well as an excellent jazz evening organised by Mr. Lancaster.

A number of trips are being organised for the coming year, including the RE trip to New York and the art trip to Paris for the sixth form. The history department are in the early stages of planning a trip to St. Petersburg to support the study of Russian history and the Big Band's plans to tour to Germany are well advanced. The ski trip was highly successful too, and the students represented the school and themselves extremely well. I am very grateful for the time and commitment that staff put into organising trips and excursions to provide enriching experiences which can be highly motivating for the students involved.

I hope you will have an enjoyable Easter break. For the upper and lower sixth, as well as the fifth form, there will be the opportunity for some focused revision in preparation for the summer exams. The reports that they have received will enable each student to focus on what is required and to allow them the opportunity to perform to their potential.

M. L. Pearman (Headmaster)



The following pupils in the Upper Sixth have been offered places at Cambridge, or Oxford for entrance in September 2007:

Robert Foster to read Chemistry at Oxford (this is an open offer), Rebecca Hilton to read Law at Oxford (Wadham College), Tom Pearman to read Law at Oxford (this is an open offer), Alistair Pringle to read Economics & Management at Oxford (Hertford College), Chris Smith to read Natural Sciences at Cambridge (Peterhouse College), Steffi Sharp to read Veterinary Medicine at Cambridge (Selwyn College).

We wish them all the very best of luck in their A-Level exams!

OXBRIDGE SUCCESS

GIRLS' FOOTBALL



Football at Ripon has enjoyed its most successful year: both the U16 and U14 teams reached the semi-final stage of their respective North Yorkshire County Cup competitions.

The U16s lost 5-2 to Wensleydale, the eventual winners, conceding two late goals. Sophie Reeves scored both of Ripon's goals, but this was a wonderful team effort played in wet, cold conditions. Many of this team are currently in the fourth year and they will return for next year's competition with great confidence. The U14s went down 4-3 to Easingwold in a very close, competitive match. Despite leading 2-0 at half-time,

Ripon could not hold on in the second half, facing a strong wind. All the girls must take tremendous credit for their efforts in this game. Nicky Gears scored a hat-trick for Ripon has a bright future in the game.

Nicky Gears and Katie Davill have been selected to play for the North Yorkshire U15 team.

Congratulations to all the girls who have played for the school this year. If you want to play girls football, join us on Friday afternoons from 4pm.

Mr R Shannon

GIRLS' P.E.

Since the last report we have had some very exciting sporting events. At the end of December we had the Inter-House Swimming Sports, which proved to be very enjoyable, well attended and there were good performances all round.

The overall winners, by just a tie-break, were School with 131 points and a total of 12 first places, De Grey came second, with 131 points also and 7 first places, Hutton came third with 120 points, and Porteus came 4th with 91 points, after a valiant effort. The Senior House cup was won by Hutton, again on a tie break with 47 points and 6 first places, closely followed by School with 47 points and 4 first places, De Grey came third with 42 points and Porteus came fourth with 24 points. Junior overall positions were a lot more clear cut, with De Grey winning with 89 points, School 2nd with 84 points, Hutton 3rd with 73 points and Porteus 4th with 67 points. New records for Alex Culshaw in the over 15 one length (11-9 seconds) and by school in the over 15 medley squad (four by one length) of 54.3 seconds were achieved. Equalled records were achieved by Natalie Clayton, U13 Freestyle one length with 11.2 seconds and Madeline Wivell, U16 Freestyle two lengths with 24.4 seconds.

The annual Old Riponians fixture saw the current 1st X1 win against the Old Rips 3-0 in a very exciting game of hockey. Unfortunately there have not been many matches for the 1st X1 but the 2nd X1 had a match against Queen Margaret's, and although they lost 1-0 it was a well fought match which was very tense to watch. They have also had a match against King James's School, and drew one all. The Area Tournament, at the time of writing is still in progress, with the 1st X1 getting through the semi-finals on penalty flicks against Giggleswick. A special mention to Bridie Douglas for an amazing performance in goal and to Flora Lindsay and Fern Carver for

leading us to victory into the final round. The final has been rescheduled and it will be against St. Aidan's School.

Quite a few netball matches have been cancelled by other schools, but the ones that have gone ahead have seen Ripon Grammar win. The under 12s have improved greatly since last term, winning many of their matches and the under 14s continue to be a very strong side.

Hannah Tankard, U6

BOYS' P.E.

Inter-house cross country results 2007

Juniors	4th Hutton (167 points) 3rd De Grey (142 points) Joint 1st Porteus and School (114 points)
Junior Champion:	George Hobson
Intermediates	4th Hutton (194 points) 3rd School (144 points) 2nd Porteus (119 points) 1st De Grey (99 points)
Intermediate Champion:	Duncan Birtwistle
Seniors	4th De Grey 3rd Hutton 2nd School 1st Porteus
Senior Champion:	Robert Barker



Rugby: Our Under-16 rugby squad won the Runners-Up trophy in the North Yorkshire Festival at York RI Rugby Club in February. Congratulations to all who took part.

Mr M Garvey

GREENPOWER DEVELOPMENTS

NEW RACING SEASON

The RGS Greenpower team are preparing themselves for a busy season of racing as the first race rapidly approaches. We have been invited to attend a "friendly" season opener on 29th April at the fabulous Goodwood Circuit. The long drive to the south coast in a slow minibus always seems a bit of a marathon but is usually worth it for the experience. We will also attend a new fun event, a "Sprint", much closer to home at Warden Law Motor Sports Centre, Sunderland on Thursday 24th May. The first qualifying heat is on the 12th September at Croft Racing Circuit followed by one at Darley Moor on the 15th. If we qualify we will attend the final again at Goodwood in October.

Our two existing cars have undergone only minor modification and improvement this winter, mainly to comply with the many new Greenpower rules which were introduced at the end of the 2006 season on the grounds of safety and fair play. A number of quite successful teams had interpreted the rules in "interesting" ways and the organisers were becoming concerned with the construction of some remarkably quick but fragile cars.

The "Electric Chair's" brakes have been improved and its roll cage braced. It also has quick release battery mounts and easier to press control buttons. It still weighs a ton though!

The "Carbon Comet" needed very little work to satisfy the new rules. The fully enveloping canopy is (unfortunately) no longer permitted so the drivers' head will now emerge behind a shallow flyscreen housing some instruments. The driver can

now give hand signals (a recent requirement) so the indicators have been removed saving a few more grams! The greatest weight saving has come from designing and making a drop in the carbon fibre "booster seat" to enable some of our lightest drivers to take the controls and still see where they're going! The "Carbon Comet" was originally designed to accommodate a 6'6" driver. A number of our younger club members have proven to be extremely competent drivers, gaining valuable racing experience in the slower "Electric Chair" during the 2006 season. They will now graduate to the "Comet". Both cars will receive new wider four point rally style harnesses.

NEW SMALLER CAR

The focus of the club has shifted recently towards encouraging its younger members from the lower school. Our stalwart fifth formers who have given so much to the club are sensibly concentrating on completing their GCSE technology projects to the highest standards using skills honed from their work building our existing cars. A couple of them are currently putting the finishing touches to their carbon fibre racing bicycles and aerodynamic bike seat designs. Hi-tech or what?

The junior section of our club has been designing and constructing an all new "Formula 24" car completely by themselves. In true "Electric Chair" fashion it utilises many recycled materials, the chassis of which is a much modified aluminium ladder! When completed it should be substantially smaller than our previous two cars and so will unfortunately be the first RGS car that I will not be able to steal a sneaky lap in prior to the race. This is a privilege that I have sought to uphold until now! The young team of designers hope to complete the new car

in time to compete in the local heats in the summer. We will soon need a catchy name for the new car as it takes shape. Maybe something involving ladders? Suggestions on a post card to Mr Mann please. The winner will get to drive the car at a club testing session.

NEW MEMBERS

Calling all girl designers and drivers! We have had a number of keen first year boys join the club this year but unfortunately we haven't recruited any girls. Although the majority of our members are boys, the girls have proven to be equally good at both designing and driving. We are all conscious of the fact that the evenings appear a little lighter now and that soon we will be able to test our electric racing cars once more around school on club nights. Roll on summer!

Mr S Mann

MEMORIES OF GREENPOWER RACING IN 2006

The last few races we have entered have all have been exciting and tiring. At Goodwood, the "Carbon Comet" suffered a crippling blow-out and finished in 12th place but she was running so well, a top 10 finish was easily possible. The "Electric Chair" ran steadily and well, finishing in 31st place, a very good feat, proving that there is still a good chance of beating enclosed and streamlined cars. We did manage to win the IoM3 Award for "Innovative use of materials", and had a great day out. Still, at least we managed to see the "Turbo Tortoise" nearly dismantle itself at the chicane!

Marcus Fenlon 2B

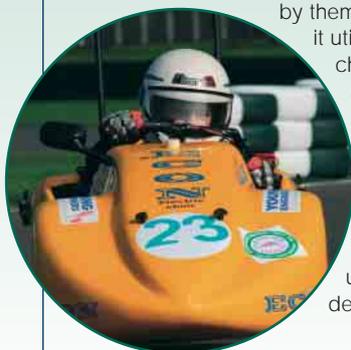
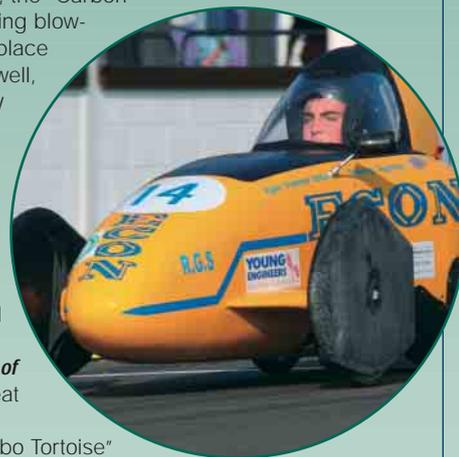
OUR NEW CAR!

The award winning RGS cars, the "Electric Chair" and "Carbon Comet" will soon be joined by the car we are temporarily naming "Ladder Car". The car has a chopped up ladder for a chassis!

It is made mostly of aluminium and some steel with narrow 12 inch diameter wheels. All of the parts used so far were found either at the tip or in a skip, so the car is made up solely of re-cycled components!

It probably won't be finished for the next race that RGS is entering as it still needs further work, so the RGS Greenpower team needs as many members as possible who will come on a regular basis. We look forward to driving it!

Angus Gillespie 2B



AN INTERNATIONAL DIVER IN OUR MIDST

Diving is more comparable to gymnastics than swimming using armstands, somersaults and twists. Competitions take place from 1 and 3 metre spring boards and high board platforms from 5m, 7.5m and 10m, the equivalent of jumping from the roof of a two storey house. Each dive is marked out of 10 by a panel of judges taking into account the take off, position through the air and entry into the water which should be upright without any splash (known as rip entry). Each dive has a tariff given to it depending upon the position it started in, forward, back inward, reverse and armstand and how many twists and somersaults are involved. The degree of difficulty tariff is then multiplied by the judges score to give the overall score for the dive.



I started diving lessons at the age of 7 and shortly after was invited to join the Harrogate and District Diving Club representing them in novice competitions locally. My coach, Damian Ball, put me forward for a day's testing for British Diving—including assessing flexibility, strength, gymnastic and trampolining skills. After this, I was invited to join the British Diving junior talent programme "World Class Start". I now train with the Harrogate team during the week and the national team at weekends in Sheffield and Leeds where I can train from the higher platforms. I train up to 15 hours a week in the pool, as well as dry land gymnastics and trampolining.

Last year was a very successful season for me. My major achievements were to get three gold medals and a bronze at the National Junior Elite Competition held in Sheffield. This with my other achievements during the year, gave me a national junior (under 15's) ranking of third at the age of 11.

The diving season opened again in autumn with competition in Southampton and Lund (Sweden) with the Harrogate diving club.

I was also invited to represent the Great Britain Junior Team in Montreal Canada just before Christmas diving against teams from Canada, USA, Colombia, Cuba, Australia, Netherlands and China. I was diving against boys two years older than me and I gained 4th place on the 1m spring board, 5th on 3m spring board and gold from platform earning me the title of 'Great Britain Diver of the Meet'. Most recently (in half term) I competed in the Armada Cup held in Plymouth and won three silver medals.

I am going to continue my training and I am currently being assessed for the 2012 London Olympics. I am also looking forward to a summer British Diving training camp in Italy or America.

Jack Laugher 1B

The sport of diving is up and coming helped along by Leon Taylor and Pete Waterfield's Olympic silver medals in Athens 2004.

RACE FOR LIFE...

We are hoping to raise a team to enter the "Race for Life" (cancer research). We have entered for the past five years and have run / walked at different venues. This year we are going to Lightwater Valley on Tuesday 12th June; the race starts at 7.30pm.

This is a ladies only event and we welcome support - in the form of participants or sponsors - from staff, parents and pupils. Over five years we have raised in excess of £4,000.

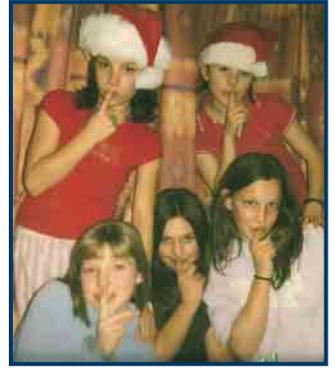
To enter as part of the RGS team, you need to go online and type in your details as instructed (Google - 'Race for Life'). The team name is "Team RGS" and anyone interested can contact me (Helen Pickard) or Chris Whitham at RGS on 01765 602647.

This is a FUN event, no pressure, lovely atmosphere and lots of people walk! It is only 5 km and we will hopefully organise an after event nibbles and drinks social.

Mrs H Pickard

BOARDING...

a first year's perspective



The first year of boarding at Ripon Grammar School is an exciting experience. It's quite daunting at the beginning of the school year, but it is great fun when you get used to it.

The days pass quickly because we are so busy. The worst part of the day is the 7.15am wake-up bell!

There is a good variety of food at meal times and this is also a time when we enjoy having a good chat.

"..it's great fun & I've made some super friends..."

There is no need to worry about when to do our homework because we have a compulsory time period called 'prep'

where first to third years do their homework. It is also a time when we can write letters and read.

Each evening after prep we take part in an organised activity. These include sports, cooking, art and sometimes watching a DVD.

The boarding house is warm and comfortable. The first year dormitory sleeps eight girls and we are all good friends and have lots of fun. The housemistresses are kind and helpful and they are always available if we need them.

Boarding takes a little while to settle into, but it's great fun and I've made some super friends.

Georgina Sanderson 1D

SCHOOL BUILDING DIARY

At the start of the new term we discovered that the grass areas at the back of school had vanished and been transformed into a car park for JCBs. Building work had begun and to our disbelief we heard that the school's bikesheds were to be demolished. Rumours and gossip soon circulated—could it really be true?

A career in journalism is something I have always dreamed of and so when the opportunity arose to write a diary of the new building project, I jumped at the chance.

Previously, when considering a career in journalism, I imagined myself as a highflying representative of the Racing Post, standing in the winner's enclosure at Royal Ascot. However, when I walked into the caged site to be met by two men in muddy boots and yellow fluorescent jackets, I began to wonder what I was letting myself in for! Despite attempts to politely excuse myself, the workmen insisted that I would not get in the way and assured me that they were happy to answer my questions. So, with my chances of escape dashed, I decided to get on with the task in hand. I was immediately advised of the safety precautions in place. The 'heres' fencing ensures that no pupils can escape and find themselves lost in the depths of the site and all those entering the site or the compound must wear protective clothing.

I was intrigued to discover that although planning permission has only just been granted, the first drawings of the proposed

classrooms date back to almost a year ago. There are six new brick classrooms to be built in the form of a two-storey block. The project will cost around three quarters of a million pounds and is funded partly by the school and partly by the Local Authority. The new classrooms will house mainly the Maths department, but will also be used for design and technology and the engineering department, to complement the school's new status. The work means that some of the temporary huts can be removed.

After a VIP screening of the proposed finished project, it gets my stamp of approval! The new classrooms have not only been air tested to make them low on carbon emissions (good news for the environmentalists among you!), but also feature a large number of windows to maximise the natural light.

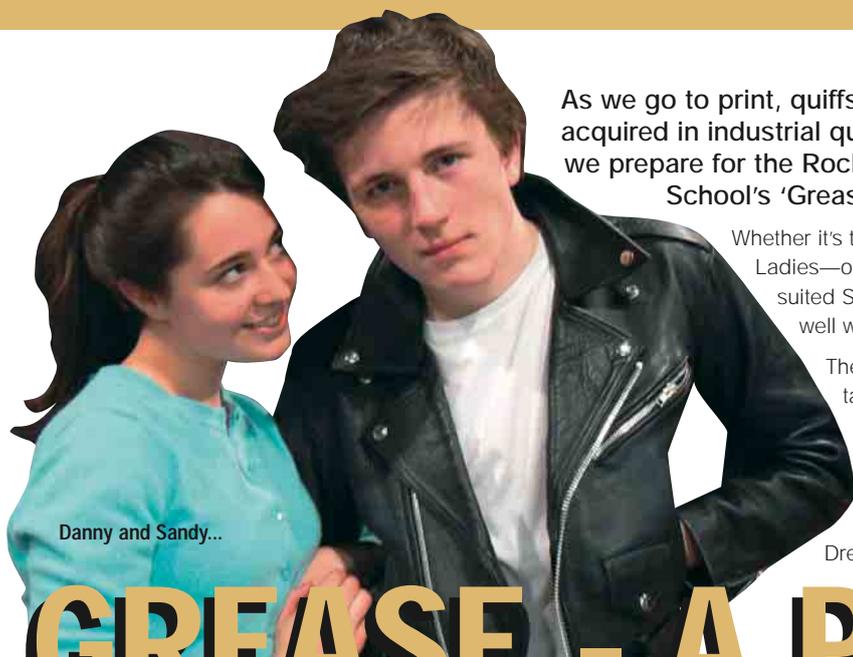
The task is no mean feat, but Parkinson building contractors assure me that they are the men for the job, working from 7.30am to 5pm every day (or that's what they tell us!).

They have recruited six people to work on the site with the help of a JCB and a roller. Despite some 'service problems' due to electrical cables, gas and water, site manager Stuart Fletcher enthuses that they will work, come rain or shine, to ensure the building is finished by September, ready for the new term.

My experience today was certainly one to remember, and to top it all, I even got to keep my fluorescent jacket!

Emily Steed L6





Danny and Sandy...

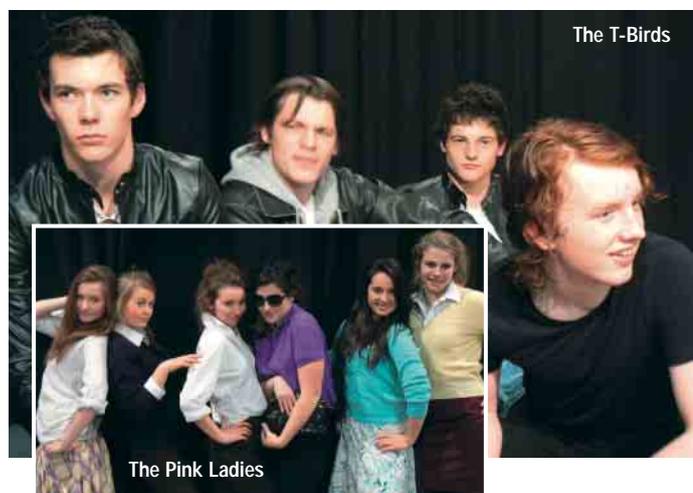
As we go to print, quiffs are being lovingly tended, brylcreem acquired in industrial quantities, and dance moves perfected as we prepare for the Rock'n'Roll carnival that is Ripon Grammar School's 'Grease!'

Whether it's those classic songs you love - or the bubblegum Pink Ladies—or the memory of 'snake-hips' Travolta and the black-cat suited Sandy losin'control—or perhaps simply...that car; well we've got them all and more!

The actors are a real mix of experience and fresh young talent, supported by a colourful and energetic dance chorus who have been relearning the mystery and magic of jive for months now—led by Lucy Whitton and the ever-youthful Mr Andrew.

The slick skills and style of Ross (Danny) Graham and Drew (Kenickie) Johnstone's T-Birds are met head-on by

GREASE - A PREVIEW!



The T-Birds

The Pink Ladies

the sassy brass of the Pink Ladies - led by Bridie Douglas as Rizzo, and by the innocence of Helen Wilson's 'Sandy.'

The songs, of course, are the heart of this show, and whether it's hot rock or slow crooning, the voices and the band are ready to let rip in style.

Meanwhile, quietly and away from the spotlight, Mr Herbert and Mr Stevens have been designing and constructing a whole new School, which will live onstage for a brief couple of weeks before being consigned back to the pages of the designer's script. There's more too! This production boasts not only a new school—but also (fittingly for an engineering status school) 'Greased Lightning' itself, which lovingly crafted by Mr Mann and the Technology Department, is set to be the centrepiece of the show.

The final word? We promise tender moments, aching cool songs and flash cameos aplenty, along with the sense of sheer energy that is the essence of 'Grease! It's electrifying!

Mr T Fell

MUSIC AWARDS 2007



A few of our winning pupils...

Congratulations to the following pupils:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1st Year Winner: | Fergus Scholes (cornet) |
| 1st Year Runner-Up: | Cameron McCormack (saxophone) |
| 2nd Year Winner: | Harry Pilling (clarinet) |
| 2nd Year Runner-Up: | Jonathan Owens (euphonium) |
| 3rd Year Winner: | Isobel Jennings (piano) |
| 3rd Year Runner-Up: | Rory Buckle (piano) |
| 4th Year Winner: | Emily Jennings (piano) |
| 4th Year Runner-Up: | Amy Barrett (voice) |
| 5th Year Winner: | Alex Pearman (trumpet) |
| 5th Year Runner-Up: | Tim Robinson / Ollie Norman (violin) |
| 6th Form Winner & Overall Young Musician: | Katherine Jennings (voice) |
| 6th Form Runner-Up: | Tom Ravalde (piano) |
| Best turned out musician: | Peter Shires |
| Best stage presence: | Harry Pullan |
| Most improved: | Edward Riley / Kieran Newman |

Miss L Jackson

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

Christmas at Ripon Grammar School has always featured as a large event on the school's calendar and this year was no exception. The pews in the cathedral were packed full with members of the Ripon community who wanted to enjoy a traditional carol service to get into the Christmas spirit.

The service was opened by Katherine Jennings singing the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City' after which the congregation eagerly joined in with the rest of the carol.

Following this, the rest of the service consisted of readings from selected members of the school and parents of children at the school and pieces from the school band, choir and the Saxability group.

In addition to accompanying the carols the band played the Christmas classics 'Sleigh Ride' and 'Winter Wonderland' and the choir sung the well loved Christmas carol 'Silent Night' and two further pieces 'Holy Child' and 'O Men of the Field.'

The new sax group formed this year by Miss Jackson had rehearsed hard and gave one of their first performances on this evening playing 'Segadilla'.

The carol service ended with a reading from Mr Pearman followed by wine and mince pies kindly supplied by the Parents' Association. The music department had many compliments from the audience and the feeling was that the service was a very enjoyable and worthwhile event.

Charlotte Woffenden 4C



R'n'B FACTOR

On the 27th November 2006 I, Angus Johnston, competed in the R & B Factor. This was a singing competition between three schools: Ripon Grammar School, Ripon College and Boroughbridge High School.

During the weeks running up to the show I was really excited. I did practise performances in assembly and spent many hours in the kitchen at home practicing with my mum, which didn't go down too well with my brother Charlie! On the day of the competition itself I had caught a cold, but pulled through the day at school. I sang "I want you back" by the Jackson 5. Judging by the shouting and cheering I got, I think the audience enjoyed it!

When all the contestants had sung and it was time for the prize-giving, I was convinced that I wasn't in the top three so when the judge announced that I'd got second place in the junior section of the competition I was really happy. It was a great night and I really enjoyed it!

Angus Johnston 1B

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES AS LEVEL

Friday 2nd April saw 11 actors, 2 technicians and a set designer facing a hand-selected audience including two examiners as they presented their AS Level practical performances.

Each of the two pieces was entirely devised, written and rehearsed by the students themselves, and the quality of vision, production and acting was extremely high, reflecting the sheer commitment and focus of the students.

'True Colours' was a pointed exploration of the 7 Deadly Sins, presented against the backdrop of the True Colours Catwalk Competition, whilst 'Game On' focused on the age-old battle between light and darkness—a game of cosmic chess played out using real lives. The A2 students present their performance of 'Brokenville' at the end of April.

Mr T Fell



A LOOK BACK AT ANOTHER BUILDING PROJECT

It is almost exactly one hundred years since the 'Art Block' was built. In fact, although the date-stone indicates 1906, the building was not completed until the following year.

This is how the proceedings were recorded in the Riponian of July 1906, presumably providing as much interest as the current construction: *Mrs G Hills*

There is no doubt now that on our return next term we shall see the walls of the new Laboratories rising on the site selected for them, in the corner of the Cricket Field between the Cricket Pavilion and the Fives Court. The buildings, with the fittings, is to cost about £2000. It will contain Chemical and Physical Laboratories, a Lecture Theatre, and a Manual Instruction Room. Each of these four will measure 26ft. by 32ft., and the height in the lower story will be 14ft., in the upper 19ft. Provision has also been made for small Balance, Store and Photographic Rooms. The ordinary sitting accommodation of the Lecture Theatre will be for 70, but can easily be extended on special occasions to provide for a 100. The plans show a fine building of good proportions and worthy of the main block. We are told that the Governors, from subscriptions and other sources, are now sure of £1500; it is proposed to hold a Bazaar in October of 1907 to obtain the rest.

It has been a busy year so far for the Lower School form competition, with all merits and commendations counting towards each form's total score, and with a huge number of students already having claimed bronze and silver awards.



It has been the form contests however that have been the most fun, ranging from form songs to a pub quiz; Christmas card designs to juggling contests.

The crescendo comes next term with the tug-of-war and form relays, which will see everyone in each form working together to come out on top!

Meanwhile, the latest contest has seen the Lower School team up with the Comenius project in the 'Sunflower Challenge.' Students from all the Lower School forms have taken sunflower seeds home with them, and in common with peers in Poland, Germany and Norway, they will use all their green-fingered skills to grow the tallest plant (verified by photograph.) In addition to a Comenius prize, this will also count directly into the form competition!

(Last year the reward for the winning 3rd year form was a trip to Lightwater Valley—negotiations will start soon for this year's Grand Prize!)

Mr T Fell



LOWER SCHOOL FORM COMPETITIONS

Chemistry department works with local primary schools...



Making slime is a serious business...



Stimulating a windy day with air particles



Hannah makes sure that her students carry out an experiment safely

Have you noticed a caterpillar of "little people" making its way through the school on Thursday lunchtimes? Lower Sixth students Hannah Wray, Max Tweddle, Katy Averis, Rob Ford, Laura Gilbert, Lauren Hudson, Jon Dale, Chris Scott and Sarah Branch can explain!

As part of our recently awarded engineering status, I have been working with local teachers on a half-termly basis to support the teaching of science in primary schools. Every week, a class of primary school children visits the chemistry labs to carry out some practical work that relates to their current science topic at school.

Mrs Lyth is the Year 5 class teacher at St. Wilfrid's Primary School. She was very enthusiastic about the project and was eager for the children to visit Ripon Grammar to carry out some "real chemistry" in our new labs. With the children using chemistry apparatus for the first time, I enlisted the help of Hannah Wray for the first lesson. Hannah was a natural teacher and a big hit with the children, who all enjoyed making slime and pretending to be particles. The children's requests to "blow things up next lesson" started me thinking that it wouldn't be a bad idea to ask some of the sixth form chemists to run the sessions on a regular basis.

Max, Katy and Rob and have since been regular helpers, with the additional help of Laura, Lauren, Jon and Sarah. They have all shown a very natural talent for working with young people, and thanks to the extra pairs of hands in the classroom, the children were able to experience activities such as carrying out chemical reactions, weighing gases and using Bunsen burners, which would not have been possible otherwise.

Mrs Scorer, Mrs Butterworth and their students from Holy Trinity Junior School are currently visiting us on Thursday lunchtimes. The children have already been dissolving, evaporating and filtering. Again, the staff involved have been extremely impressed with the maturity, patience, leadership skills and all-round excellent manner demonstrated by our students.

Thank you, sixth form chemists, for your continuing efforts. It is making a huge difference in helping to inspire the young scientists of the future—we are all very grateful.

Miss J Humphrey

The delights of Chemistry...



Local students were treated to an explosive afternoon at school recently when Mike Hoyland, former chief demonstrator at Leeds University Chemistry Department, put on his travelling roadshow "The Delights of Chemistry" on Thursday 1st February.

Our First Year students were joined by Year 5 pupils from Holy Trinity Junior School, St. Wilfrid's Primary School, Greystone Primary School, Ripon Cathedral Primary School and Moorside Junior School. The theme of "Gases Around Us" included exploding balloons, colour-changing reactions, liquid nitrogen and pop-bottle rockets whizzing into the audience.

Mike's horse-box was the cause of much interest in the car park, where the students had first-hand experience of liquid nitrogen and dry ice. More treats followed during the show; the audience gasped in horror as Mike turned a packet of crisps into a roaring fire to show just how much energy they contain, and everyone was captivated by the beautiful "fireflies" experiment. Dr Grime's heart nearly stopped when Mike almost set fire to his trousers with a blowtorch (having worked with Mike several times before, I knew when to stand back!).

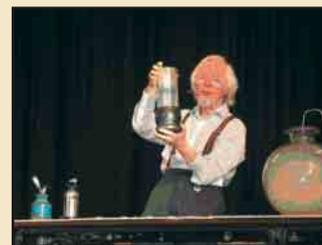
First Year students Hannah Hale and Will Johnson presented Mike with a personalised gift made by Mr Rudland, who went to much effort in organising the logistics of the event. Hannah and

Will said, "The event was enjoyed by all and we hope to see Mike again."

Very many thanks to Mr Rudland and to Dr Grime for their help in organising the event, and a huge thank you to the caretakers for setting up the stage and the hall prior to the event.

Miss J Humphrey

Mike demonstrates liquid nitrogen boiling at room temperature



Mike shows off his blue liquid oxygen

GCSE Astronomy is a new course this academic year—it was an exciting prospect and it has all been worth it! When I started the course I had no idea what to expect, apart from the planets and the constellations! It was a new concept for me. Astronomy isn't just looking at the moon: there is making rockets out of balloons, going inside a blow-up dome which turned out to be a planetarium and watching a lunar eclipse.

The planetarium was an amazing experience as we could see stars that we can't see if we look out of our window at night. The thought that we might be getting an observatory, well that has gone down a treat!

Rachel Bates 4A



GCSE ASTRONOMY: A NEW OPTION!

BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT NEWS



The Biology department now have a new pond, since the old one ceased to hold water! This is in partnership with Holy Trinity Junior School's "Great Crested" Newt project.

Already, some common newts have returned. At the moment it looks very stark and unattractive, but at the end of March / early April the aquatic plants and bog garden plants should be ready to plant. When finished it will be a lovely area and a valuable resource. We would welcome any help from interested pupils. Please see Mr Williams. We are also bidding for funding from "Earthwatch" to help develop a wild flower garden.

Biology has also recently purchased a bird-feeding station which is a hive of activity, attracting many bird species and a cheeky squirrel, which has led us to grease the pole to stop it from climbing up and eating the bird seed!

Mrs H Pickard

Welcome back, Shaun!

"My name is Shaun Wilson, I'm a second year student at Leeds Metropolitan University, studying for a degree in Sports & Exercise Science (basically a three year PE lesson with some big words thrown in for good measure!)

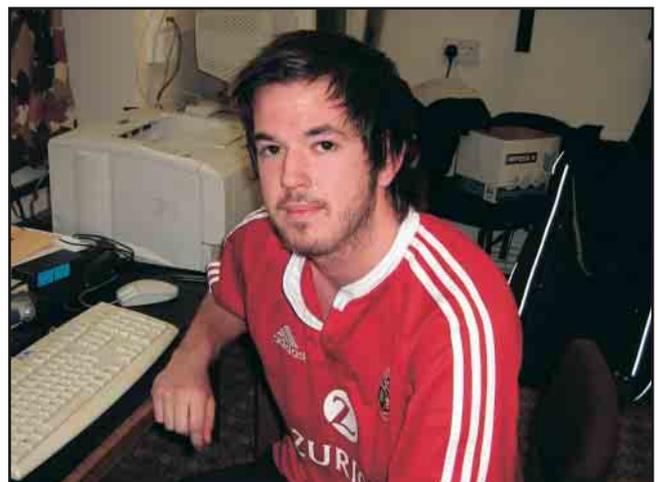
I'll be in school for the next couple of weeks doing work experience in the PE department as part of my course.

As a former pupil some of you may remember me, but if you don't just ask someone in the fourth year or above about the idiot with spikey hair who routinely embarrassed himself during school charity weeks, or won successive 'Battle of the Bands' titles with two different bands (probably a feat still to be topped, Mr Lancaster?)

Anyway, if you see me meandering, feel free to say hello, or take me to lunch—us students live on a shoe string and hot food is always a bonus.

Oh, and one more thing.....is it wrong, that whenever I walk past Mr McGrann, I still check my shirt's tucked in?!"

Mr S Wilson



OLD RIPONIANS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT: PAUL FREEMAN

SECRETARIES: LOUISE WATSON, ALISON FRANKLAND

HONORARY TREASURER: JOHN SAUL

RIPON LOOKS TO THE STARS

Just over a year ago, the Old Rips decided that they would like to raise some money to provide the local community and all its schools with something that would bring pleasure (and education of course) to all. Jenny Bellamy, who was president at that time, had experience in making a successful lottery bid, through 'Awards for All', and she offered to attempt to do it again.

A year later, and after a great deal of work, we were awarded £10,000 to provide an astronomical observatory in the school grounds to be available, in the evenings and on weekends, on a free-to-all basis to local community groups and to schools for extra-curricular activities.

It will be called the Clova Observatory, because the former Royal Astronomer for Scotland, Charles Piazzi Smyth, retired to Ripon, continuing his work at his house, "Clova", in Clothholme Road. It is now a retirement home, but right at the top of the building you can still glimpse the dormer windows in the roof where he used to observe the stars and the clouds. He and his wife are buried in Sharow churchyard, under a small reproduction of the Great Pyramid, which was yet another of his interests.

The project will take some time to complete, but once it is up and running we will be holding an open day (probably in summer 2008) when Old Rips and their families will be able to come and see it and other new facilities which are in the school.

JUNE SMITH 1939 - 2006

June Moore was appointed to the new co-educational Ripon Grammar School, formed by the merger of the Boys' Grammar School and the Girls' High School in 1962. She was to teach geography and be a Housemistress in Johnson House.

During her first year at the school, while Johnson House was being built, she lived in a room in the Sani and took her meals with the men and boys in School House. From 1963-66, Connie Gilbey, Senior Mistress (who had a cat), Miss Gilbertson, the Matron (who had a budgie) and June (who had a dog called Noddie) ran Johnson House. The dog chased the cat and the cat chased the budgie, so the mayhem when all three were loose can be imagined! During this period, June organised the big garden parties held each year in the school grounds.

In 1964, Ben Smith was appointed Head of Geography and in 1968, he and June were married. From 1964 - 70, they were the Geography department, sharing the work equally, including leading week-long 6th Form field courses based in Shropshire. On one memorable occasion, because the Head (Mr Atkinson) would not release two members of staff, June drove eleven 6th formers in the minibus with two more on a motorbike, and did all the teaching and supervision herself. Those were the days!

Ben and June led frequent school walks at the weekend, visiting the fells, moors and the coast of Yorkshire. The Spring Bank Holiday saw parties of second and third formers climbing in the Lake District and walking between youth hostels. Notable foreign holidays included a high level mountain hut circuit in the Alps and Dolomites, and a visit to Poland and Berlin at the height of the Cold War.

As was the norm in those days, June resigned in 1970 to devote herself fully to bringing up her two sons. Later, in the 1980s and 1990s, she frequently acted as a supply teacher in the school. Right up to the end of her life, June maintained a strong interest in and loyalty to the Grammar School, particularly since Ben continued to work there until his retirement, and they attended many school functions, even when they moved to North Shields.

RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL ANNUAL SUMMER BALL

2007

19TH MAY 2007

This year we thought a theme would be rather fun: a 'masked' ball!

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Price of tickets: £42.00

They will be available from:
Hannah Walpole - 07796 171108

Help us make a success of this event!



more NEWS

WINE TASTING

Thank you to everyone who supported "Call My Bluff" wine tasting evening. We raised £400.00

QUIZ NIGHT

20th April 2007 in the school hall, ticket £5.00 includes glass of wine/soft drink and nibbles

SPRING PRIZE DRAW

We are planning ahead and thinking of prizes for the Spring Draw. If any parents have ideas for appropriate prizes please contact: Frankie Porter on 07801 953098.

200 CLUB

The "200 Club" is an ongoing form of fund raising, 50% of the membership fee is used for the school. An annual fee of £15.00 buys you a number in the monthly draw and a chance of winning £65.00 or £25.00. Application forms are available from:

Mrs Alex Whitfield
200 Club Administrator
c/o The School Office

Winners for	December	January	February
1st prize £65	Mrs D.Shaikh	Mrs C.Johnston	Ms Richardson
2nd prize £25	Mrs J.Mitton	Mr J.Trenholme	Mrs A.Whitfield

Thank you for all your support at fundraising events. We are delighted we're now in a position to purchase a Sound System, and Rear Projection System for the school hall.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR...

16th April	School opens for Summer term
26th April	Battle of the Bands
7th May	May Day Bank Holiday, school closed
8th-11th	May DBH: KS3 SATS
13th May	Boarders' Summer Tea
16th-18th May	3rd Year summer exams
19th May	Parents' Association Summer Ball (see advert, opposite, under 'Parents Association' for details)
17th May	5th Year study leave begins
21st-25th May	4th Year work experience
25th May	Half term begins
4th June	School opens
18th June	1st, 2nd and 4th Year summer exams begin
18th June	Lower Sixth work experience begins
22nd June	Lower Sixth work experience ends
22nd June	1st and 2nd Year exams end
26th June	4th Year exams end
4th July	Sports Day
6th July	Staff training day, school closed
9th July	New 1st year welcome evening
10th July	New 1st year induction day
12th-14th July	Junior production, "Peter Pan".
18th July	Lower School prize giving
19th July	Sponsored Walk
24th July	Commemoration Service: Ripon Cathedral, 11am
24th July	School closes: 12.30pm

FOOD HYGIENE CERTIFICATE

This year, for the first year, the Food Technology GCSE course has included the opportunity for pupils to sit the "Food Hygiene in Manufacturing" certificate through the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health, paid for by the school.

FRENCH



EXCHANGE

The dates for the return visit to France are Sunday 8th April 2007 leaving at 9am from Ripon to Stansted, returning Friday 20th April to Ripon at 11.30pm.

MONEY RAISED BY ANTHONY NOLAN TRUST

The final total raised by the school from Charity Week for the Anthony Nolan Trust is £6,220.85—many thanks to all those involved. Next academic year we will be raising money for The Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

SCIENCE NEWS

All 4th Year pupils have GCSE Science exams in the Summer term.

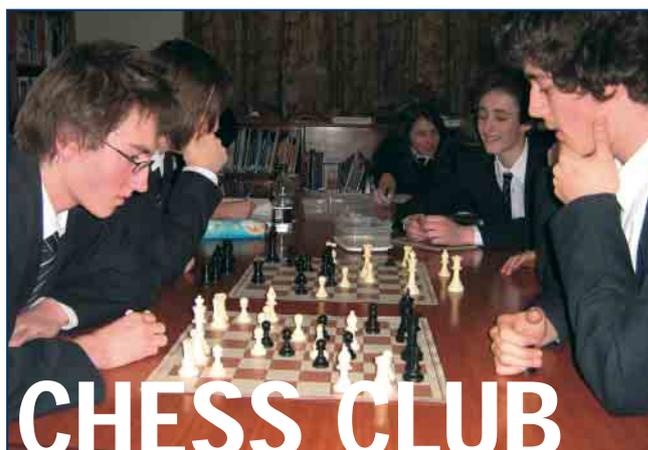
Wednesday 20th June	Biology (B1)
Thursday 21st June	Chemistry (C1)
Monday 25th June	Physics (P1) & Core Science (B1b, C1b, P1b)

JUNIOR PRODUCTION: PETER PAN

The Junior Production this year (on the 12th, 13th and 14th of July) is the return of an old favourite—Peter Pan! Let us transport you to the distant shores of Neverland, and share with you the greatest adventure of all.

Bloodthirsty pirates (fresh from Penzance!), glamorous mermaids, naive lost boys, wild Red-Indians, furious beasts, that time-conscious reptile...all are here, and towering over the whole island—the sinister Hook and his nemesis, Pan.

We hope that you'll join us on our flight!



CHESS CLUB

The Ripon Grammar School Chess Team has had many trials and tribulations during this current incarnation, (I think the last one disappeared in the late 1980s), but we have pulled through all of them.

After entering the York Schools' Chess League last year, we are the only team to remain undefeated after eight matches.

Before the Christmas holidays we faced Ampleforth College, the team we defeated in the final last year, and although our opponents fielded a stronger team, we still triumphed, with Amos Diegel Trimmel making an impressive debut.

Last term we also hosted Bootham School and recorded our first victory without loss (5 - 1, two draws), with Ben Wright finally winning his first match for the team and Liam Evans winning a seemingly endless game.

Thanks must be made to York Chess Club for their kind donation, which allowed us to buy six new chess sets last year.

New members are always welcome (all abilities)!

Robert Murray

FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to all pupils and staff who contributed to this edition. Should any pupil be interested in writing an article, or suggesting content, for the next edition, then please contact Mrs Stevens or stevensf@ripongrammar.co.uk.

FOURTH YEAR WORK EXPERIENCE

The 4th year is getting ready for a week in the 'real world' when they go out on work experience 21st - 25th May 2007. The students have taken the initiative and have organised an exciting range of placements, some travelling as far as London. More information on this annual event will be in future editions of the RGS News.

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