

# RGS news

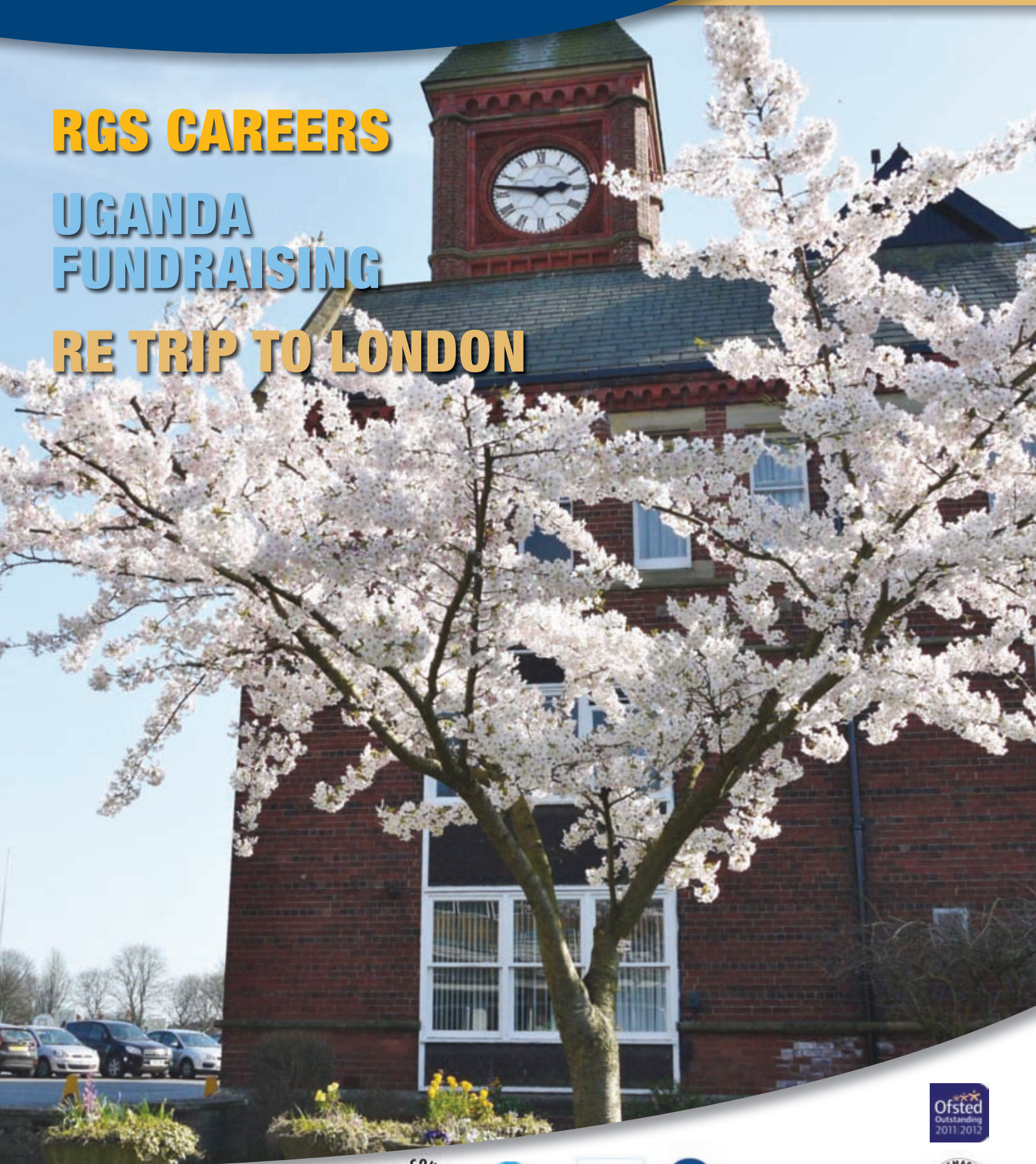
Issue 35 Summer 2013



**RGS CAREERS**

**UGANDA  
FUNDRAISING**

**RE TRIP TO LONDON**



Photograph courtesy of Mr G Davis



Specialist Schools  
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EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY





# WELCOME FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents,

**A warm welcome to the summer edition of the RGS News.**

**The term has been extremely busy with a number of significant events, such as the junior school play, sports day, lower school prizegiving and the commemoration service in Ripon Cathedral. There have also been a very large number of trips to universities, field trips and of course the work experience week for both fourth-form students and the lower-sixth.**

External examinations finished some time ago and I look forward to the results in August where I hope the hard work and commitment of the students will be duly rewarded.

It is also a sad time of the year too as we say goodbye to a number of staff. I am grateful to all of them for their tremendous service and commitment to Ripon Grammar School over the years and our best wishes go to them for happy and successful futures. You will find a tribute to each of them in this edition.

We look forward to welcoming new members of staff in September and a pen-picture will appear of each of them in the autumn edition of the RGS News. In the meantime, here is a list of staff who will be joining the school from September and our best wishes go to them for a successful career.

Mr P Baines, teacher of mathematics  
Mrs H Beasley, teacher of mathematics  
Mr J Dunmore, premises manager  
Mrs H Gardiner, cover supervisor  
Mrs M L Lyons, teacher of French with German  
Mrs H Mars, teacher of English  
Mrs E Morpeth, teacher of music  
Mr R Pepper, teacher of RS and deputy head of sixth form  
Mr J Ward, teacher of mathematics  
Mr M Weston, head of classics  
Mr A Winston, teacher of history

**Internal appointments:**

Mrs T Ball, deputy head of sixth form  
Mr P Chapman, Duke of Edinburgh co-ordinator  
Mrs H Mackenzie, head of house system  
Mrs B Southwell, inclusion co-ordinator  
Mr R Walker, work-related learning and enterprise co-ordinator

Dr Piggott and Mrs Seager, science and DT technician respectively, will be on maternity leave next term. Our best wishes go to each of them and their families.

You will notice on the front cover of this edition a wonderful photograph of a cherry tree in the quad, which is in full bloom. In Japan, cherry tree blossom is called 'sakura'. The annual blossoming of cherry trees is a key part of Japanese culture which dates back to the third century BC. Sakura flowers decorate many Japanese consumer goods and are an international symbol of Japan. The sakura represents the important cultural aspect to Japanese life.



It implies the transience of many things in life and the acceptance that nothing lasts for ever. The cherry blossom is on display for a brief period of time in May and by this time in the summer it is long gone. It is therefore important that, in life, we recognise that there are times in our lives which are very significant and that we should savour the moment. This was the theme of one of our recent school assemblies. As headmaster of Ripon Grammar School I am very fortunate that many excellent achievements happen regularly and it is easy at times to take these for granted. Sakura reminds us that success can be transient and should be enjoyed.

I hope that you will enjoy reading the RGS News and will spend a little time appreciating the excellent opportunities that students enjoy here and the success that can be derived from them.

I am very grateful to the staff for providing all these opportunities. I hope also that you will have a very enjoyable summer holiday and I look forward to seeing you next year.

Yours sincerely

**M L Pearman (Headmaster)**

## BON VOYAGE!

**On Friday 24th May the entire first and second years were treated to an afternoon of fun by the Flying Theatre Company; another energetic and lively performance, this time titled 'Bon Voyage'.**

The Flying Theatre Company, based near Whitby, have previously visited us and we have much enjoyed their shows – a mixture of circus skills, jokes and music, all performed entirely in French. Our first and second years were prepared for the show with some work we had done in class, studying some of the vocabulary which would be used.



This year's performance followed two people as they travelled to the beach to learn to surf, after meeting lots of strange people and getting into all kinds of situations on the way! The topics covered included: asking the way, transport, items to take on holiday, the weather and opinions. The two actors were joined on stage for a hilarious sketch by Mrs Stevens and Toby Osman (2D) where they were asked to don various items of clothing, dance and sing a rap in French! For those who would like a reprise, the lyrics are below!

Thanks to Mrs Stevens for organising the event, as well to Oliver... and Sam ... who provided the sound and lights.

### SURF RAP

JE M'APPELLE SENS UNIQUE (2x)  
IL N'Y A PAS DE PANIQUE  
CE N'EST PAS POUR LE FRIC  
QUE JE PRENDS DES RISQUES  
IL Y A MA SOEUR, MON FRÈRE ET MON PERE,  
MON ONCLE, MON COUSIN ET MA MERE,  
ENSUITE IL Y A MA GRAND-MERE,  
ET ELLE FAIT DU SURF, POUR LES VAGUES ELLE A DU SUPER  
IL Y A MA TANTE, MA COUSINE, MON GRAND-PERE,  
PETIT FILS, PETITE FILLE, ET AUSSI BEAU-FRERE,  
BIEN SUR APRÈS CA MA GRAND-MERE,  
ET ELLE FAIT DU SURF, POUR LES VAGUES ELLE EST SUPER

*The Modern Languages Department*



# GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR STAFF THAT ARE LEAVING



**Ms Campbell** joined us from Gateshead in September 2012 and has worked in the RE Department teaching pupils in every year group all the way up to A2 Level. She has also taught PSHE, sixth form General Studies and has been an excellent form tutor to 2B. As pupils will testify, her lessons are highly organised, challenging, fast moving and fun. Ms Campbell has been an excellent, friendly, caring and supportive colleague to work with and helped

to organise this year's second year RE trip to London. Her energetic enthusiasm, infectious laugh and distinctive Ulster accent will be missed and we wish her every success and happiness as she moves on to teach at the King's Academy in Middlesbrough. **Mr Clarke**



**Mr Hanson** joined Ripon Grammar School as premises manager in 2007. The challenge of being premises manager in a school with such a diverse range of buildings and facilities is significant and Mr Hanson has managed all of this with good humour and resilience. During his time here there have been a number of major building projects which have required a significant input from him. He has given of his time freely to enable these projects to reach

fruition. Mr Hanson has now decided that the time is right to retire and enjoy a little more time for himself and his family. We wish him well for the future.



**Dr Kern** has been working in the biology and chemistry departments this year to cover for Mrs Caldwell during her maternity leave. She has also been 2D's form tutor. Dr Kern's students will be aware of her enthusiasm for science and her efforts to help them make good progress. She has readily given up a great deal of time to offer additional help and support to students where this was needed. We have all enjoyed working with Dr Kern and wish her well in the future.

**Dr Grime**



**Mr Lancaster** joined the school as Head of Music in September 1999. During his tenure, Mr Lancaster has ensured that there has been the opportunity to become involved in a wide range of musical ensembles. These ensembles have enjoyed a great deal of success with many a highpoint, including performances at the National Music for Youth festivals and international tours. A number of students have gone on to study and perform music at a higher level and his own

interest in jazz has had an impact upon a number of students. He has also enjoyed witnessing the completion of a new music block. In addition Mr Lancaster was Head of School House (boys' boarding) for five years and took up residence in Ellington House in September 2004. We wish him well in the next stage of his career as a musician. **Mr Auger**



**Dr Meakin** joined Ripon Grammar School as Head of Classics in September 2010, having taught Latin and Greek at Ermysted's Grammar School in Skipton. Dr Meakin took to the teaching of classical civilisation to upper school and sixth form students here at the school with gusto. In addition, she managed to stimulate sufficient interest in A-level Latin to attract a committed cohort of dedicated Latinists in the sixth form. Whilst these senior courses were

taught on timetable, the embryonic group of fourth-form Latin students was taught as an extra-curricular option and Dr Meakin was generous with her time in steering this group forward. In addition, a select group of volunteers was keen to study GCSE Classical Greek under Dr Meakin's tutelage and this, in itself, is a testament to Dr Meakin's expertise. An attractive post at Bradford Grammar School as Head of Classics proved to be irresistible and we wish Dr Meakin all the best in this demanding but exciting new challenge. I feel sure that she will find the journey to work far less tortuous than the daily grind on the North Yorkshire roads between Skipton and Ripon! **Mr Garvey**



**Mrs Cutress** joined the school as head of mathematics in September 2005 from Ashville College. She is leaving to teach mathematics at Harrogate Ladies' College on a part-time basis and our loss will be their gain. In her time at the school she has led the mathematics department which has achieved consistently high results (with more than 70% A\* - A grades at GCSE for the past three years) and record numbers studying mathematics and further mathematics at A level. She has

nurtured and developed the department in terms of approach, encouraging colleagues within the department to enthuse and inspire pupils in their study of mathematics. All members of the mathematics department have benefited from her advice and she has demonstrated strong leadership. Mrs Cutress is an outstanding teacher and head of department and the department will miss her as a mathematician, as a colleague and as a friend. We wish her every success in the future. **Mathematics Department**



**Mrs Hills** first joined the mathematics department as a newly qualified teacher in 1976, from the University of Durham. In her early years she also acted as house mistress in Johnson House. She took a break from teaching to look after her children, returning to Ripon Grammar School in the mid 1990s. During her many years here she has earned a reputation as a skilful and thorough mathematician, setting very high standards for all her students. She has

taught generations of young people to draw straight lines properly and woe betide any student who does not have a sharp H pencil! Mrs Hills is a much loved and respected member of staff, always giving generously of her time. Her professionalism, integrity and traditional values are qualities that define her. She has an enthusiasm for the history of Ripon, and in particular that of Ripon Grammar School. In recent years she has devoted many hours to the collection, organisation and documentation of the school's archives. We wish her every happiness in the future. **Mathematics Department**



**Miss Mann** joined Ripon Grammar School in 2011 as a cover supervisor. She has undertaken her role extremely well and has shown total commitment to it. The role of cover supervisor is a demanding one and requires great flexibility. Miss Mann has demonstrated all the qualities required. She has also overseen the house system well during the last year. Our best wishes go to her as she embarks upon her teacher-training course at Leeds Trinity University.



**Miss Nicholson** joined us in September 2012 to teach French and German, fresh from her Durham PGCE course. She immediately brought classes to life with her enthusiastic and committed approach, and all of the students she taught quickly came to appreciate her demanding but positive and good-humoured style. Miss Nicholson also started a lunchtime Russian club (having studied Russian as part of her degree, spending four months in St. Petersburg and four in Krasnoyarsk). This was

eagerly attended by a number of sixth-form students. Miss Nicholson leaves us after only a year to make a much hoped-for move to the Midlands. She will be teaching French at English Martyrs School from September. We wish her all the best in her new post, and with thank her for all her hard work this year.

**Mr Chamberlain**



**Mr Thompson** joined Ripon Grammar School in September 2006 following a career change. He had previously been an engineer with Land Rover, spending much of his time test-driving vehicles. From the outset, he was an asset to the department; not least because he was initially the only male in an all-female domain! Mr Thompson is very hard-working and quite prepared to spend significant amounts of time researching resources. Who can forget the

"Top Gear" lesson? His sense of humour, good nature and general affability have made him an excellent colleague, as has his "willingness" to take part in Charity Week. Mr Thompson's interest in outdoor pursuits has led him to taking on the leadership of the Duke of Edinburgh group in school and there are many students, both present and former, who should be grateful for the many wet weekends he has given up on their behalf. Mr Thompson is moving to a school in Bradford on a well-deserved promotion and we wish him every success in the future.

**Mathematics Department**



# ARMY VISIT

## STAFF SERGEANT PETER COULSON, MBE INSPIRES YOUNG DESIGNERS

A recent fourth year systems and control project was made all the more realistic when Staff Sergeant Peter Coulson, MBE from the Ripon Detachment of the Army Cadet Force contacted Mr Mann for help in making a timing device to control their machine gun sound effect. It was fortuitous that the fourth year group were learning about electronic timers as part of their GCSE course. A project was quickly devised to inject some realism into the project by using the Army Cadet Force as clients. The group individually designed and manufactured an electronic circuit which could turn on a machine gun sound effect for a specific time when inadvertently triggered by the cadets during night manoeuvres (using a trip wire or hidden pressure mat). The students also produced a robust camouflaged case to house the electronics. Most of the students projects were disguised as rocks or shrubbery but a number of them were designed to resemble discarded rubbish and small animals! Staff Sergeant Coulson joined the group several times during DT lessons to advise the students and check progress. The project culminated in April with each student giving a presentation of their practical outcomes to the group demonstrating that they met the criteria through a series of strict tests. The students marked each other's work against a set of criteria that they devised themselves but the final judgement was down to Staff Sergeant Coulson who presented the prizes to the following winners;

First place - Ben Pease - £30  
(pictured with Staff Sergeant Peter Coulson MBE)

Second place - Max Vesty - £20

Third place - Dominic Edwards - £10

Additional prizes of army rucksacks went to - Richard Langdale and Joshua Harris-Cox

My very grateful thanks go to Peter Coulson, MBE for his generosity and involvement in this very enjoyable project

Mr Mann



# UGANDA CHARITY FUNDRAISING

This August, I am spending three weeks in Kisiizi, Uganda, volunteering in a hospital, primary school and orphanage. Kisiizi Hospital is a rural hospital, well known throughout Uganda, with a mission to bring holistic healthcare and life in all its fullness to the staff, patients and visitors in the hospital and community.



Despite being a fee-paying hospital, patients have never been turned away through reasons of poverty. Many staff have shown great dedication in service to patients who come from a large catchment area stretching over hundreds of miles, patients sometimes travelling from beyond Mbarara, the regional town eighty miles away.

The hospital requires two new anaesthetic machines as their current ones are almost completely worn out. It is my aim to raise the money for at least one of these, each costing £2,750. I am aware that this is a great deal of money, but not, however, unattainable. If many people feel the way as I do about a cause such as this, I believe that it is possible to reach this target (and maybe even exceed it!) in order to help those extremely less fortunate than ourselves.

So, in the ninety days leading up to my visit, I am rowing the equivalent of the length of the River Nile running through Uganda, which equates to approximately 500km! I am already well into my challenge, and it would be a lie to say that I am finding it easy. Having to get up at the crack of dawn each day in order to squeeze in a couple of kilometres before school is tough, especially when coping with an injury and occasional chest infections. But it is getting done, and I'm glad to be able to do something!

I am extremely excited by the prospect of my visit, and it would be made even better if I were able to take the anaesthetic machine with me when I go.

I'm keeping a logbook and have made it possible to donate online at:

<http://charlottekessell.wix.com/500rowrun>. Please take a look!

Any sponsorship at all would be so very much appreciated.

Charlotte Kessell, Lower Sixth



# HOUSE SYSTEM

The chance to become the Head of the House System for Ripon Grammar School was an opportunity not to be missed. Having been involved in the House System when I was at school, I saw this as an exciting prospect.

This year, we have had several hugely popular events including Master Chef, House Drama, Poetry by Heart, University Challenge, Rounders and Swimming galas! The upper-sixth House Captains helped me form teams for each house event and provided support in each competition.

Students and staff throughout the school have given up their precious time to contribute to this traditional and much respected element of the school's history, bringing together students of all ages in the house teams.

At the moment, there is not much to separate the house scores. However with the largest and most prestigious event still to come, I am sure the results from Sports Day will dramatically change the rankings before the end of term.

As I am leaving at the end of term to undertake my own PGCE year commencing in September, it was with regret that I had to hand in my resignation as Cover Supervisor and Head of the House System. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with students outside their lessons in extra-curricular activities which they may not have previously experienced. I am looking forward to hearing about future successes from the school.

Miss Mann



## WHAT'S THE LION KING GOT TO DO WITH RE?

**When most sane people were still fast asleep, forty-six second year pupils, four teachers, a driver and many parents were up with the dawn chorus, having breakfast and making their way to Ripon Grammar School to board an Abbots coach at just after 6 am on Friday 17th May to head south for this year's RE trip to London.**

Our first port of call was Bhaktivedanta Manor in Hertfordshire, a stunning Tudor mansion which, quite frankly, didn't resemble the Hindu place of worship we had imagined. We were greeted with warm and enthusiastic smiles from our hosts and any anxieties that we had were blown away. We were instantly made to feel like we were part of the big family of the Temple and it was clearly a joy for them to talk about their faith and way of life to others. The walls of the Mandir (Hindu name for temple) were adorned with beautiful paintings of the Hindu pantheon and there was a special garden dedicated to the memory of George Harrison (of the Beatles) who purchased the manor and donated it to the Hindu community after his conversion to Hinduism in the 1960s.

We were given a tour of the grounds, including a bullock cart ride to the cow sanctuary where the animals are hand-milked and put to work to grind wheat for bread. The cow is a sacred animal in Hinduism which is essentially a vegetarian religion. This particular mandir is devoted to Krishna who was a cow-herd in his lifetime. There are various environmentally green projects in the temple grounds, such as wormeries and solar energy panels. After various presentations and discussions on the Hindu faith, we dressed up in traditional Indian clothing and had our faces and hands decorated with henna to perform some drama sketches. We were also given a delicious vegan lunch and an opportunity to observe the worship of Krishna in the shrine hall which included music and singing by children from the temple's primary school. On reflection, this was a great way to learn about Hinduism by doing so many different things and meeting people who live by this ancient religion in the modern world.

We boarded the coach and waved goodbye to our hosts as we set off for Lea Valley Youth Hostel where we settled into our alpine lodges in an idyllic location and had an early evening meal before heading into the West End of London to watch the 'Lion King' at the Lyceum Theatre. In spite of facing some serious traffic problems, including a major road closure due to an accident, John, our brilliant coach driver managed to deliver us to the theatre in good time to find our seats before the curtains were raised and the performance began. This was truly a spell-binding musical with amazing choreography, powerful singing, a very strong, heart-tugging narrative, awe-inspiring costumes, an astounding stage set and hilarious comedy. What on earth has the 'Lion King' got to do with RE, you might be tempted to ask? Well, without spoiling the story, this is an epic tale which deals with ethical issues such as power, corruption, envy, lying, murder, guilt and duty. It also explores the themes of death, bereavement and life after death, all within the context of traditional African beliefs about the spirits of our ancestors – quite a lot to do with RE, I'd say!

We were up bright and early again on Saturday for another action-packed day. After a hearty breakfast we headed off for South Kensington where we visited the magnificent Natural History Museum, built as a cathedral to knowledge and opened in 1881.

As we pondered the giant diplodocus skeleton in the entrance hall and the marvellous, marble statue of Charles Darwin, we were filled with a sense of awe and wonder at these great creatures of a bygone era and the man who challenged the religious orthodoxy of his day when he published his discovery that we all share a common ancestor and that natural selection is the key to the origin of species. Before we entered the museum itself we visited an exhibition of live butterflies from all over the world. There were all sorts of exotic species, large and small with beautiful colours, including the dazzling Blue Morpho from Central America. We even witnessed the extraordinary live event of a butterfly emerging from its chrysalis. The next visit of the day was to Madame Tussaud's where we eagerly dashed up to view the models of our favourite celebrities, including one which looked remarkably like Mr Clarke until it suddenly moved, much to the alarm of some Russian tourists! The brave amongst us dared to visit the frightening dungeons where live actors scared the living daylights out of the public! The visit finished with a brilliant 4D film about super-heroes, where things flew out from the screen, water squirted out of the seats in front of us and air came out of the seats from behind us! Our Saturday afternoon adventures in central London were rounded off with a flight on the London Eye next to the Houses of Parliament. The views of one of the world's greatest cities were truly breath-taking.

As we made our way back to the Youth Hostel for tea, excitement mounted at the prospect of a Saturday night disco on ice at Lea Valley Ice Centre in Leyton! The atmosphere was electric and the music was cool – as you would expect at an ice rink! Although most of us weren't amongst the best of skaters, there were quite a few members of the public there who could skate at speed backwards! As time went on, more of us left the rail at the side and ventured bravely into the middle of the rink! It was great fun and enjoyed by all! We slumped into our beds, exhausted but happy, wondering how we would manage to get up early for another packed day of activities!

In the twinkling of an eye, Sunday morning arrived and most of us were trying hard not to think about the fact that we would be going home in a matter of hours. Two jam-packed days had passed by as quick as a flash but with all that we had seen and done we could actually have been away for a week or more. It was an early start at 6am and, as soon as breakfast was over, we set off to the astonishing Swaminarayan Mandir in Neasden, the largest Hindu temple in the world outside India when it was built in the 1990s. Here, we observed a traditional Hindu arti ceremony and visited an exhibition on the history, science and philosophy of Hinduism.

Our trip was concluded with a visit to Wembley Stadium, one of the greatest and most historic football grounds in the world, for the League One Play-Off Final between Brentford and Yeovil, together with almost 42,000 other people. Our "We love you Clayton" poster was spotted by the Sky TV cameras, as was Mr Clarke who was wearing a bright yellow Togo football shirt! A lively and entertaining game saw three goals and a 2 – 1 victory to Yeovil Town who will now play in the Championship for the first time in their history. As we returned to Ripon Grammar School on Sunday evening, we were reminded that we had to get up in the morning for school, or else! Having had so much fun and with so many happy memories and stories to tell, we really didn't mind. We would all like to thank the teachers who gave up their time to make the trip possible: Miss Campbell, Miss Hoskins, Miss Mann and Mr Clarke.

*Anissa Cook & Amelia Kane. 2B*





# Parents' Association

## NEWS FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

**As the school year draws to a close I would like to thank all the committee and our dedicated volunteers for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the last academic year.**

We have raised a wonderful total of £11,000 through the various activities and events held and, as a result, we have been able to support a number of departments and provide the school mini-bus, entirely paid for by the PA.

The year began with a wine, cheese and quiz evening, primarily for the parents of new starters in September. In October, we welcomed back the Ripon Rowell players who delighted our audience with their mix of glamour, intrigue, wit and suspense in their murder mystery play. November heralded the much acclaimed 'Fairy Light Christmas Fair', which raised twice the amount anticipated. World Challenge students raised hundreds of pounds between them and many local businesses reported excellent takings with some wanting to re-book straight away. January's Burns' night, in its eighth year, was a sell-out, and the astronomy evenings finally got underway in February, previously postponed due to our typical British weather, over forty parents and students enjoyed their 'tour' of the stars and planets.

The "food, glorious local food" summer raffle remains our biggest fund-raiser, and it is easy to see why, looking at the calibre of prizes: Rudding Park donated a meal for six with a wild food foraging expedition, and the culinary expertise of TV-celebrity chef, Stephanie Moon, valued at over £750. The raffle was drawn on the 8th July and a list of winners can be found on the school website. We are also grateful to the other local businesses for their donations which ranged from venison and organic beef, turkey and sausages to hampers and cakes.

Throughout the year you will have seen a team of volunteers who offer refreshments at parents' evenings and other school events. This is an important source of income to the fund so a huge thank you goes to all those ladies for their time and baking skills and to Julia Whitham (pa@ripongrammar.co.uk) who, as coordinator, would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to go on to her volunteers' list!!

The '200 Club' continues to flourish and contributes over £1,000 to the total figure raised each year – at only £1.25 per month you could win a prize of either £50 or £25 each month. An application form is available from the school website.

The PA is run by parents, with day jobs, who wish to help improve facilities for the students. We welcome new parents' assistance in whatever capacity you might feel able to offer. On the website is a form, "Your PA Needs You", and this can be down-loaded and completed to advise us if you are able to help.

Every parent who bought or sold raffle tickets to family and friends now has a stake in the projects that the PA votes to support and you can be part of that decision-making process by coming along to our meetings.

These are held approximately every five to six weeks in term time only. This is when we plan our events, discuss new ideas and also carefully consider the bids from teachers and the headmaster. As well as the mini-bus, the PA have purchased the new stage curtains which have made a huge difference to the hall, a Royal Life Saving Society Rescue dummy to improve life-saving skills of our children, hockey masks and an I-pad for recording information for the PE department, a public-address system, language recording devices, a demonstration chess board, Raspberry Pi's which are programmable devices that students of all ages can use to develop their IT skills and Ripon Grammar School branded saddle cloths to make our equestrian event team stand out even more!

These are all items agreed upon for the benefit of the students. However, our fundraising also plays a valuable role in the community. We have just purchased Ripon's first community defibrillator which will be secured in an accessible outdoor cabinet. It is easy enough for a non-medically trained person to use on someone suffering from a suspected heart attack although North Yorkshire Ambulance Service will be coming into school to give students the relevant training.

Thank you to the brilliant committee – we look forward to welcoming new faces in the autumn term at either our meetings or events. In the meantime I wish you a very happy summer!

*Alison Reed, Chair of Parents' Association*

### FORTHCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(all held at Ripon Grammar School)

10 September	7pm	Parents' Association Meeting
27 September	7.30pm	New Starter Parents' Social - Cheese, Wine and Quiz
8 October	7pm	Parents' Association AGM - all welcome
19 October	7.30pm	"Murder at the Pyramids" - Wine, dine and feast from 'the best dessert trolley in town' while the murder mystery play unfolds around you. Tables/tickets can be reserved now by emailing pa@ripongrammar.co.uk
4 November	7pm	Parents' Association Meeting
16 November	4 – 7pm	'Fairy Lights Christmas fair' - contact pa@ripongrammar.co.uk if you are interested in taking a stall or offering sponsorship.
25 January	7.30pm	Burns' Night



## TEENAGE COOKERY CLASS OFFER

Swinton Park Cookery School is offering RGS students and family members an attractive discount when they sign up for its new inspirational teenage cookery classes with Michelin trained chef Stephen Bulmer.

Mr Bulmer will be teaching the essential cookery skills that will enable students to make delicious and wholesome meals sure to impress friends and family on September 9 and 10. The dishes featured in his Life Skills for Teenagers courses are ideal for busy lifestyles and great for those needing to cook for themselves at college or university.

Swinton is offering a 25% discount off a second place with every two places booked. The offer is exclusively for RGS students and alumni, but families and friends may take up the second place. (One reduced price place per full price place booked, subject to availability. Cannot be combined with any other offer.)

Please see [www.swintonpark.com](http://www.swintonpark.com) for dates and details, or call the Cookery School on **01765 680939** for further info and bookings.





# OLD RIPONIANS' ASSOCIATION

President:  
Mrs Jenny Bellamy  
Secretary:  
Mr Euan Raffel  
Treasurer:  
Mr George Oworm

## SWIMMING BATHS CENTENARY FUNDRAISER

This year marks the centenary of the opening of the school's swimming pool. The swimming baths were opened in July 1913, after a significant amount of 'hard labour' by the then current students and friends of the school to dig out the pool during the previous 9 months.

To mark this centenary, the Old Riponians' Association is asking for your help to raise some funds to improve the pool. We have set ourselves two possible targets:

- Lane dividers & starting blocks (building on the Olympic legacy)
- Installation of a shower at the entrance to the swimming pool

Our first fundraiser was held at the Old Rips reunion on July 13th and, together with a generous donation from the ORA, the fund has passed £2,000. This will certainly fund one of our targets so please, please help us reach the second target.

### 1912 BREAKING NEWS

**July 1912 Governors Minutes:** "Motion agreed to build a swimming baths. Subscription of £15 by two governors started the fund."

**December 1912 Riponian Magazine:** "Early in October a start was made, and enthusiasm was strong for a season. Many tons of earth and stones have been excavated, but much yet remains to be done, and it will require greater effort and more able-bodied volunteers if the bath is to be in existence by the Summer term."

#### July 1913 Riponian Magazine

"The Marquis and Marchioness of Ripon then proceeded to the vicinity of the Swimming Bath. The Marquis read details, monetary and otherwise, concerning the Swimming Bath, and then formally handed the Bath, over to the Chairman of the Governors, for the benefit of the School. Sir John Barran made a very amusing reply, and then called on the Marchioness to perform the actual ceremony. This was done immediately by the mere withdrawal of a curtain, the bath being then declared open. Some scratch inter-house Swimming races followed, greatly to the delight of the visitors."



The original open air Swimming Baths

#### 1914 Riponian Magazine

"The Swimming Bath has proved the boon we hoped it would be; and except for the short periods required for filling and emptying, has been in constant use. Many of the younger boys have learned to swim, and the diving has made great strides. The hot weather has been all in favour of making bathing most pleasurable. Very few boys seem to attempt much in the nature of a lengthy swim, the crowded state of the bath no doubt militating against efforts of this nature."

**Please contribute to this special Centenary Fundraiser:** We are sure current and former students have all enjoyed the pleasures of swimming, learning to swim or gaining your Life-Saving Award during your time at the school.

**You can donate online to the Swimming Pool Centenary Fund via the Old Riponians' Association web page on the RGS website.**

or alternatively please send a cheque, made payable to 'Old Riponians' Association', to George Oworm, Ashley House, Boroughbridge Road, Bishop Monkton, HG3 3QN.

## ORA CHRISTMAS REUNION 21 DECEMBER 2013

The afternoon will begin at 12 noon with the ORA Annual General Meeting in the Library. This is when we report on the past year and elect our committee for the coming year. All visitors are welcome but only members may vote. We always try to keep the AGM short so everyone can watch (and play in) the matches that are held in the afternoon.

Come and play for either an Old Rips team or a school team at hockey, soccer or netball on the Astroturf (or inside the Sports Hall if wet). Come and tackle the climbing wall in the Sports Hall or swim in the newly refurbished swimming pool (or just look at it) with accessories bought with money raised by the Old Riponians. If you would like to play in a match, please contact Mrs Mackenzie or Mr Garvey at school.

As you may know, the Old Rips have been raising money for the 'extras' for the swimming pool on its one-hundredth anniversary. There will be opportunities to make a donation to this very worthy cause.

Tea for all spectators and players will be served from 2.30pm onwards in the school hall. This is provided by the ORA but a donation will be gratefully received, again towards refurbishing the swimming pool.





# SPORT

## BADMINTON SUCCESS

**This time last year I had just had the privilege of representing England at the UK School Games, which was one of the preparation events for the Olympics. Coming away with a silver medal, and enjoying all the elements of a major multi-sport event were highlights of my competitive "career" so far, and it wasn't easy to see how I could match it this year. After a short summer break, the new tournament season kicked off again in September 2012. Twenty-three events later, I now have time to reflect on how I have progressed, and whether all that time training has really paid off!**

This year, at junior level, I was competing in a new age group (Under 17). This meant that I was back competing with players a year older than me. I got off to a great start, winning two medals at the first of the national circuit tournaments, and earning selection for the first international event of the season, which took place in Denmark in October. That was the first time I had been selected to represent England a year above my own age group.

When I came back from Denmark, my coaches at Leeds Met University decided I was ready for my biggest tournament test so far - they entered me in the Senior International tournament series events in Scotland and Wales (for the tennis fans they are the equivalent of the senior ATP tour). It was a great experience playing in an event alongside senior pros, and amusing to see that it was possible to place a bet with the national bookmakers on my progress in the tournament - another first for me I think (I didn't place one)!

By February I had improved my ranking sufficiently to make the draw for the English Senior nationals. Only 22 pairs were accepted into the event and my partner and I were just looking forward to the experience. With nothing to lose, we really rose to the occasion, and pulled off a shock in winning our first match. This put us up against the number 2 seeds, and eventual winners. With Sky TV cameras present it could have been embarrassing, but in losing 21-10; 21-12 we won more points than any of their opponents, up to the final!

Other tournament successes followed, with wins in a Senior Silver circuit event, and the Durham U19 open, bringing my first tournament financial rewards - not enough to retire on though!

In March, I won a bronze medal at the U17 national championships. I would probably have taken that if asked at the start of the season, but the gold medallists were a pair my partner and I had beaten comfortably in our previous encounters, so I was left feeling that it was something of a missed opportunity.



Of course, that is what makes the national championships such a big event - they only come round once per year, and it's all down to how you perform on the day.

My season's performances were good enough to earn selection for the England team to play in the U17 European Championships in Holland at the end of April. Those opportunities make all the training worthwhile. I was pretty pleased with my performances, and after reaching the quarter finals in the doubles event, I'm hoping I can go one better and win a medal next year when I will still be young enough to compete in the same age group.

In April I was a member of the Yorkshire team that won the U17 English Counties Tournament. The final against Buckinghamshire couldn't have been closer. With the scores at 10-10, we won by virtue of the fact that we had a 2 point better points difference over the 20 games played! That was suitable revenge for the Inter-Counties Challenge event that was played at Nottingham University over four days at Easter - again we played Buckinghamshire in the final, and with the scores tied at 5-5, on that occasion we fell short of victory by a similar margin on points. At that event, my partner and I were "adopted" by the Cornwall team who stayed to watch the final and cheered us on throughout. They asked for our shirts when it was all over, and we were "rewarded" with a week's supply of pasties from their sponsors! All-in-all, it was a really enjoyable season, with plenty of highlights to look back on.

Once my GCSEs are out of the way I have a summer trip to Malaysia to look forward to - training with some of the best players in the world, including World Number 1, Lee Chong Wei. It will be an amazing experience and I hope to improve.

**Matt Clare, 5A**



## NATIONAL NETBALL COMPETITION

**I was amazed when, in September 2012, I was selected to play for Leeds Athletic netball club in the U14 squad and started intensive training with Anna Carter the Yorkshire Jets Coach and ex-England player.**

We won the West Yorkshire League and then travelled to Sheffield for the Regional rounds which we won against tough opposition from

other areas in Yorkshire including Hull Chevrans when we only had six players. The Nationals weekend meant two days in Essex with the top eighteen teams in the country. The atmosphere was electric and the noise overwhelming at times as parents cheered and coaches shouted.

The first day went really well and we settled into a rhythm and won all our matches. The evening meal with the team, coaches and families was great for morale.

The second day started and we quickly realised this was a level we had never played at, with very strong teams and some players appearing like giants. One girl was 6ft 3 inches tall...!! We played hard and fast but the opposition were very physical and intimidating. We came sixth in the country and I felt proud to play at that level. It has inspired me to play more netball and start to make progress in coaching and umpiring for next season.

**Sarah Reed, 3C**



## ROUNDERS

**Huge congratulations to the under-12 rounders' team who played in the Cundall Manor annual tournament on Wednesday, 19 June. The tournament featured the top private schools in the north of England, including Edinburgh.**

Ripon Grammar School won all the matches in their pool to reach the semi-finals where they met Scarborough College. We won 131/2 - 91/2 to then face Terrington in the final. This was a very close match with some brilliant running catches being taken by our girls, and we finally won 9 - 81/2.

Our players were: Kathryn Barrett, Lucy Williams, Amelia Simenacz, Emily Reed, Sophie Winkle, Hattie Sowray, Sophie Richardson, Amy Mackenzie, Jemima Strachan, Emma Kelly.

**Mrs Mackenzie**



Inspire a generation



## RIPON VANQUISH THE OPPOSITION

**Ripon Vanquish, Ripon VX Club's Division One Team, played their final two matches of the season and clinched the regional title, bringing home the first and eagerly-awaited trophy.**

Vanquish's first match was against Easi-Rocklits HellCats. Vanquish were brimming with confidence and tore into the HellCats from the beginning, refusing to let them settle into their game. Vanquish kept their structure and discipline and built up a strong lead at the end of the first period, 45:33. HellCats fought back hard in the second period but Ripon stuck to their guns and even extended their lead to 89:56. Ripon scented victory and piled on even more pressure in the third period but could only extend their lead by two points (134:98). Their opponents were fighting back harder than ever and took the final quarter by 15 points but it wasn't enough to overturn the deficit and Vanquish took the match 168:147.

After a break during which HellCats beat York Phoenix, Vanquish came back on court for their final match, against York Phoenix. A cagey first half saw the teams only six points apart at the first interval with Phoenix having the slight advantage.

Seizing on this Phoenix moved up a gear in the second period and built up a more comfortable thirty point lead at 92:62. Ripon were not league leaders for nothing and regrouped at half time, fighting back hard, working as a team, maintaining their structure and taking the third period by 13 points to reduce the deficit to 117:100. Sensing a comeback they fought even harder in the final period but Phoenix hung on grimly and although Ripon took the final period by three points it wasn't enough to overturn the deficit and they lost the match 143:157.

This wasn't the end of the story: as the results were recorded and the league standings updated it became clear that with one more match to go in the season, Vanquish couldn't be caught and could celebrate their first title: Yorks & Humber Regional Champions.

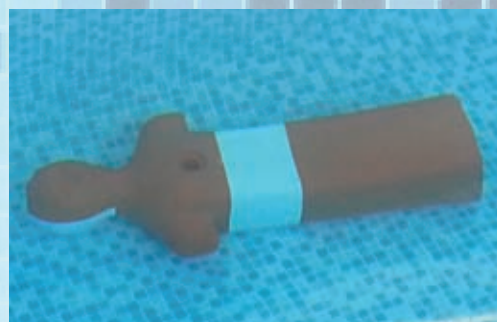
Ranjeet Shahi was delighted: "We've been looking forward to this and knew this day would come. We've trained so hard as a club. We've had some hard luck in some games but have constantly improved and this is a great reward for the players. And I'm so proud that the team is wearing a kit I've designed – a winner's strip! Now we can't wait for the national finals!"

*Mrs Mackenzie*

## THANK YOU

The PE Department is very grateful to the Parents' Association for purchasing a rescue dummy which will be used during fourth-year swimming lessons in which students follow a lifesaving module. Arthur - as he is affectionately known - fills with water to weigh about seven stones, sinks to the bottom and the swimmers perform a surface dive to raise him from the bottom of the pool. Arthur cost £260 but I like to think of him as costing an arm and a leg.

*Mrs Mackenzie*



# RGS CAREERS

## JORDAN BOOTH'S PREPARATION SECURES SPONSORED DEGREE

An increasing number of companies are offering sponsored degrees and professional training to attract talented A-level students. Applications are often made direct to the company so students wishing to keep their options open can apply for these schemes in addition to the five university choices they can make through UCAS.

This is what upper-sixth form student Jordan Booth decided to do when he attended a presentation in school from a representative of Barclay's Bank about their Retail Development Programme. The first step was to complete an online application followed by numerical and verbal reasoning tests. The final stage was held at an assessment centre in Manchester, involving group exercises, a presentation and two interviews. Jordan came away feeling he had enjoyed the day and shortly afterwards received an offer of employment at Barclays along with the opportunity to study for a BA (hons) in Leadership and Management which is conditional on achieving the required A-level grades.

Jordan attributes his success to being thoroughly prepared on the day. Leading up to the final stage at the assessment centre he had researched the company and its competitors both online and by visiting local branches. He was also able to demonstrate his employability skills through experiences he had gained during his time in the sixth form. In particular, participation in the Ripon Grammar School's Young Enterprise programme and Procter and Gamble's 'Learn to Lead' Scheme where he developed team working and business skills. Raising money and participating in the World Challenge expedition to Vietnam demonstrated organisational and leadership skills and part-time employment in a local restaurant increased his awareness of the importance of providing excellent customer service. Several periods of work experience in the finance sector and two practice interviews also increased his confidence ready for the day at the assessment centre.

Congratulations go to Jordan for achieving the offer of employment and a sponsored degree in addition to his university offers.

*Mrs F Wilson, Careers Department*

## HULL YORK MEDICAL SCHOOL WORKSHOP

A few months ago members of the lower-sixth, who are interested in studying medicine, were given the opportunity to travel to York University and take part in a workshop for this field of study. We started the day with a presentation about the Hull York Medical School (HYMS), with hints and tips on how to write a good personal statement, an activity we all found very useful. Following a brief tour round the University by a student ambassador, we were then taken to the medical building where we took part in a session with current medical students and the admissions tutors. We were then given the chance to experience a core part of the medical curriculum at HYMS by taking part in a problem-based learning session with current first-year students. They gave us a case study of a patient and we had to discuss what we thought may be wrong with them, how their lifestyle may have led to this issue and what we would advise as a cure. This was really useful as it enabled us to experience this alternative method of learning, very different to the traditional lecture-based teaching undertaken at many medical schools. Overall, it was a really useful day and it has helped inform me as to what type of medical course I hope to apply for in the future.

*Rebecca Newman, L6B*

## STUDY ABROAD FAIR IN SCARBOROUGH

In March, I took a day out of school to attend a 'study abroad' fair in Scarborough. The day began with all the visitors gathering in the conference room listening to a guest speaker from 'A Star Future Ltd', whose talk was about different universities in Europe, and gave us information on the positive aspects of studying overseas. These included the variety of courses that may not be available in the UK or courses that are more highly regarded - for example, for studying law you may look at The Hague Academy of International Law. We also had a speaker who concentrated on the American universities and enrolment system as it includes a compulsory examination, which is taken by all applicants. Next, we had a student question-and-answer panel made up of UK students who had been, or would soon be, studying abroad and foreign students who were studying in the UK. They offered some personal views and accounts of what to expect when making this big step in a student's educational career. Overall, it was a very informative day and I would recommend that people go next year if the idea of studying abroad interests them. I found out that it is financially possible for me to study abroad and because of this I am planning to apply to NHTV Breda University of Applied Sciences to study their International Game Architecture and Design course.

*Adam Linscott, L6E*



## UPPER SIXTH FAREWELL EVENING

The evening of 21st May was an emotional, yet exciting and celebratory, event for students in the upper-sixth who were bidding farewell to their Ripon Grammar School careers and embarking on a new journey beyond school. As students and parents gathered in the hall there was an opportunity to reflect on the past seven years, with a slideshow of pictures on the screen, serving as a reminder of the numerous memories and friendships made. We were also fortunate that a professional photographer was present for the evening, allowing teachers, students and parents to capture their final moments at Ripon Grammar School together.

During the evening, Georgina Sanderson and Hugh McHale-Maughan gave their final speech, thanking Mr Pearman for his continued hard work and commitment, the teachers for their enduring support and the students for creating such fond memories at Ripon Grammar School. Mr Pearman was also presented with a portrait (oil paints on board) painted by Toby Kinread as a thank you for everything he has done for the upper-sixth during their time at school. It's safe to say that Mr Pearman was delighted with this gift, thanking the Upper Sixth in return. Mr Fell, Head of Sixth Form who has seen the students' school careers blossom over the last seven years, offered his sentimental final words, leaving everyone with his 'famous quote' to reflect on and cherish when remembering their time at Ripon Grammar School: "no regrets!"

*Jonathan Pitts, L6F*

## ROCK CLIMBING TRIP

On the 27th March, fourteen keen rock-climbers travelled to the Joint Service Mountain Wing just outside Claro Barracks to do a sponsored abseil in order to raise funds to buy rock-climbing shoes. The plan was to climb and abseil the height of Mont Blanc (4810m) in less than four hours, using a 20m high abseil tower. This meant that each person had to do twenty-five ascents and descents.

Two and a half hours into the challenge, the climbers checked their total and believed that they had finished, but when a group of mathematicians checked their calculations, they soon realised a mistake had been made, and that they had in fact only done half the amount they should have done! It was therefore decided that the climbers would start again, but time was running short, and everyone knew they would have to be much quicker than before. Thankfully, all of the climbers soon got into a good rhythm and completed the challenge in three hours, fifty eight and a half minutes. The results of their efforts have raised over £300 to go towards improving our own rock-climbing equipment, so that the enthusiasm for the sport that is clearly present in these students can live on in others.

Congratulations to Oliver Grady, Adam Linscott, Jamie Ekin, Shannon Brice, Rebecca Skelton, Christopher Man, Luke Lavell, Kate Hadley, Emma Ward, Georgie Taylor, Rebecca Payling, Tom Willis, Ben Madison and Dan Williams for all their efforts.

Mr Mollard would like to thank Captain Richie Groves for allowing Ripon Grammar School students to use the facilities, Oliver Grady and Rebecca Skelton for organising the event, and all the students for their hard work.

*E Ablas, L6D*



# LIBRARY NEWS

## PAIRED READING WITH HOLY TRINITY C E JUNIOR SCHOOL

In January of this year we launched a paired-reading scheme involving some of our lower- sixth students working with key stage three students to encourage them to enjoy reading and to improve their reading skills. Word spread and, in March, we were approached by Mrs Treasure, from Holy Trinity CE Junior School, to see if we would like to be involved in a similar activity with their pupils.

A group of our lower-sixth students now go to the primary school on Thursday afternoons to work with pupils in years three, four and five. The scheme is already a great success, with teachers and teaching assistants from Holy Trinity reporting an immediate effect. Pupils were thoroughly enjoying the sessions, going home and searching out books and some had visited the local library independently over the Easter break.

The sixth-form students at Ripon Grammar School are also finding the scheme very enjoyable and beneficial. Magnus reports:

"Volunteering to do paired reading at Holy Trinity School, I feel, has been one of the best decisions I have made in my sixth-form year so far. It is a hugely rewarding experience feeling that you are able to contribute to the community and, most of all, to the childrens' futures. It has been great to meet the pupils (in my case in Mrs Penny's class) and to see them improving their reading skills over the weeks and I can't stress enough how glad I am that I made the choice to help out."

After such success, we hope to expand the scheme in the autumn term.

*Mrs Dring, Literacy Co-ordinator*



## VISIT BY DR ISSA

In March 2013, Mrs Swainston had the privilege to be able to spend four days in the Narj National School for Girls in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in order to participate in a Connecting Classrooms project, run by the British Council.

One of the aims of the project is to enhance understanding of other cultures and thus encourage our students to become global

citizens and Mrs Swainston is hoping to be able to involve pupils in projects to promote this aim. It also enables teachers to observe other practitioners at work and share their practice and ethos.

During her stay, Mrs Swainston was lucky enough to observe English and French lessons with students of all different ages, as well as taking part in many other activities that were happening in the school. She was also able to talk with the headteachers and to share experiences with many of the teachers and support staff and learn about the schooling system in Saudi.

She was honoured too to be invited to meet with the leader of the National Centre for Dialogue in Riyadh which aims to promote international understanding through a variety of projects. "My visit was truly wonderful. I was so lucky to be invited to the school and I met with people from a variety of backgrounds from the Middle East who shared so many of their experiences and their knowledge with me. I was incredibly impressed with the school and the students who were so motivated and mature. The teachers I observed were inspirational and it was a privilege for me to be a part of their lessons. Everyone was so welcoming and kind and it was an experience I will never forget. I am so grateful for all the effort that Dr Issa, the International Co-ordinator from the school, made to make my visit such a successful and memorable one."

Dr Issa visited Ripon Grammar School in April where she had a full programme, including observing lessons, touring the school, meeting with the headmaster and deputies, the chair of governors, members of staff and students. "I was really impressed by the school curriculum, the teachers' performance and mostly the students' active participation. They were very proud of their school, as was evident when they gave me a tour around, and introduced the events, activities, and facilities which I was fortunate to see, hear, and feel. I was extremely impressed by the high standard of manners the students displayed and the high mutual respect that ruled the social interaction of students and staff," said Dr Issa. "This study visit has been a revelation for me. I have witnessed and experienced the useful effects of a twenty-first century curriculum in action: a relevant, involving and meaningful curriculum can transform teenagers into active and responsible global citizens and potential future leaders."

Dr Issa and Mrs Swainston are very grateful to the headteachers of their respective schools and to the British Council for making these visits possible.

## RGS EQUESTRIAN TEAM

Ripon Grammar School Riding Club recently competed in a National Schools Equestrian Association show-cross event hosted by Northallerton Equestrian Centre. The team comprised of Lizzie Walker, Lucy Vesty and Juliet Fenlon. Lucy achieved a fabulous second place in the individual event on her pony Butterscotch. The team were unlucky in the team competition which was won by Ryedale School. If you are interested in joining the Riding Club please see Miss Murray or Mrs Henson.





# GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH PRACTICE EXPEDITION

Over the Easter holidays the Gold Duke of Edinburgh explorers embarked on their four day long expedition in the Yorkshire Dales. Starting in Richmond with our heavy backpacks laden with supplies: Georgie Groves with her thirty-plus (bargain) cereal bars, Will Ranson with his multiple savoury snacks and Ines Wivell fuelled with a 'Red Bull' the trek began.

The first day was by far the least arduous, with fairly flat grass and woodland accompanied by mountain cattle, so we made good progress. On reaching our first campsite we were warmly welcomed with tables and chairs by the campsite owner as we pitched up for the night.

After being peacefully awoken by cockerels, we split up from our large group into our two groups of eight. On day two we enjoyed lunch by some ruins and I took an unplanned dip into a stream, but we eventually made it to our second campsite in Reeth where we were re-united with the entire expedition team.

Having taken advantage of the top-notch facilities, including a fully-functioning toilet (which we were missing terribly), day three was ahead of us.

This was a day of contrasts, beginning fairly leisurely compared to the mighty dales which faced us next. With snow drifts over six feet high we had to alter our route no less than three times because of the dangerously icy conditions of April. Morale was low at this point but we grouped together and, after an extended route, we made it to our final campsite of the expedition. The highlight here was the village hall where we all dried out, defrosted and joked together about the dramatic afternoon before.



*The team, James Sharkey, Ines Wivell, Ellie Hill, Sally Ingram, Ciara Martin, Will Ranson, Bobbie Gibb, Coral Rogers, Meg Oakeley, Georgie Groves.*

We had made it to the last day! We were tired, injured, full of blisters but we pulled together and motivated each other through the rainy dales and the rolling hills of Aysgarth Falls until we emerged from a forest to see the minibus which would take us home. The comfort of the battered seats was second to none and we all shared a sense of achievement. Then came the reality that we had to go through it all again in summer; but for real this time. I speak on behalf of everyone when I say that we know it will all be worth it in the end.

*Ellie Hill, L6A*

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

**There are three stages to Duke of Edinburgh; Bronze, Silver and Gold. To achieve each stage, there are four categories to complete; volunteering, skills, physical and expedition. For many groups, the expedition is the highlight of DofE, and although at times it is difficult, it can be a great bonding experience!**

This year there are twelve bronze groups participating in Duke of Edinburgh. Our first challenge was the training weekend in March, at East Barnby or Bewerley Park, in which we learnt how to cook on a Trangia (a small camping stove), respond to emergencies, put up our tents, pack our bags and even read a map, all in the freezing cold, snow, rain and hail! Then came our practice expedition in April/May. After setting off from Bewerley Park Centre, we survived the long trek to Middlesmoor campsite. Luckily the weather was good most of the time, and the campsite toilets weren't too horrible! On the second day we headed up into the moors, which went on for miles, literally! In summer we will be doing our assessed expedition from Malham to Grassington, we hope for good weather to keep our spirits up, and we'll be sure to sing along the way. Good luck to everyone else doing DofE!

*Jenny Unwin, 4D and Natasha Livesey, 4C*





# WORK EXPERIENCE

## AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON MEDICAL CENTER IN SEATTLE



For my work experience I was fortunate enough to spend two weeks working with my aunt and uncle at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle, America. It was amazing for me to see what life is like as a doctor because I am extremely interested in a career in medicine. My aunt is a radiation oncologist and a professor in her field and my uncle is a senior plastic surgeon, therefore I got to see so many things that I would never have been able to see in England.

I spent one day with my uncle in the operating theatre, watching two of his surgeries, which was incredible especially as I was no further than two metres away from the surgery itself. For the rest of my time I worked in the radiation oncology department with my aunt; it was amazing! I learned so much about the many different ways that radiation therapy is used to treat patients, the types of cancers and tumours and I also learned lots of specific vocabulary. I was lucky enough to be working with such a friendly and welcoming group of people, and I was able to meet so many patients which I absolutely loved!

My work experience was such an eye-opener for me; it emphasised to me the reason for working as hard as possible at school so that in the future I can have a great time and get paid for it as well. Working with my aunt and uncle just confirmed to me that medicine is what I want to do because I had more fun than I could imagine, and I was never bored for even a second. My work experience really was an experience that I will never forget.

*Dan Kane, 4C*

## AT CASIO IN LONDON

Getting up at six o'clock in the morning was one of the many challenges set during work experience at Casio in London. Each day was different, ranging from computer work in the office to visiting Rankin studios – the workplace of the famous photographer. I particularly enjoyed that visit and spent the rest of the day travelling around London to take part in meetings or attending marketing shows. As part of the show, we got to visit Tower Bridge before we were off to another meeting.

On the Thursday, we had an even earlier start as we caught the aeroplane to Barcelona airport to visit the new Spanish Casio store and attend an opening party, supported by two famous young American rappers. I thoroughly enjoyed my work experience, each day was different and there was never a dull moment.

*Issy Gould, 4B*

## AT BETTYS AND TAYLORS' DESIGN DEPARTMENTS

I was very lucky to be offered a placement at Bettys and Taylors' design departments for my work-experience week. During my week I was able to use design software to produce a variety of designs for different types of packaging and produce lots of products that I was able to keep. I found the experience very beneficial as it developed important skills that I can use for both my art and product design GCSE's. I would recommend my placement to anyone who has a keen interest in art and design because they will gain lots of information about possible future careers and how they can make progress in this sector of commercial life.

*Vicky Frost, 4B*

## STEP INTO THE NHS COMPETITION SUCCESS

On Wednesday, 24th April Darren Aldrich from NHS Careers visited Ripon Grammar School to talk to the whole school about health-service careers and to make a special presentation to Annabel Fry and Louisa Chatterton (both from form 2B) who won the top regional prize of a £50 Amazon voucher each. The girls had worked together during their PSHCE lessons to produce a PowerPoint presentation and role-play video which demonstrated the work carried out by forensic psychologists in the NHS. They shot the video in one take and used humour to good effect. The judges were particularly impressed with their in-depth understanding of the role, as well as the creativity shown in the range of materials produced. To put the girls' achievement into perspective the competition attracted over 670 entries from 61 schools involving 1,666 students. Well done girls!

*Mr Mann*



*Annabel Fry and Louisa Chatterton receiving their certificates and cheques from Darren Aldrich from NHS Careers*

## POETRY BY HEART BY LUCY WATKINS

After winning the hotly contested school round of the 'Poetry by Heart' competition, I was most excited by the prospect of competing against students from the county in the regional finals in York. The event was inspiring, with an opportunity to debate and discuss our choice of two poems (mine being Thomas Hardy's 'Thoughts of Phena' and Ivor Gurney's 'Strange Hells') with a professional poet, a senior lecturer from the University of York and other competitors. Many interesting conversations ensued.

We were treated to readings of poetry from the professional poet which were most entertaining and proved a difficult act to follow, as I had been selected to perform first!

Whilst immensely enjoying my opportunity to perform my poems in front of the judging panel and audience, despite my initial nerves, it was also inspiring to hear the other performances which were extremely varied and impressive. I discovered thought-provoking poems with which I was not familiar due to especially engaging performances of poems by Sylvia Plath and Lewis Carroll. Although, unfortunately, I did not progress to the national final, I received a poetry anthology which has been a most interesting read. The experience reignited my interest in poetry and has also encouraged me to explore the work of different poets. I would thoroughly recommend entering the competition in future years as it was great fun and an unusual, interesting experience.



# RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL OFFICERS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-2014

*From left to right: Ellie Hill, Jonathan Pitts, Sally Pitts (Head Girl), Sally Ingram, Joseph Pearman, Kate Bernard, Derek van der Westhuizen (Head Boy) and Mr Martin Pearman, headmaster*

**Kate Bernard** joined Ripon Grammar School last September, coming from St Francis Xavier in Richmond. She is studying biology, chemistry, history and French, and is hoping to go on to university to study medicine, maybe at Sheffield or Newcastle. She enjoys sport, particularly sailing and horse-riding.

**Ellie Hill** hopes to read biological sciences at university, leading to pursue a specialism to PhD level. In her spare time she enjoys running in the countryside and meeting up with friends.

**Sally Ingram** plans to study a chemistry-based degree at university, after leaving Ripon Grammar School with a view to going into primary education or business management. In her free time she plays a variety of sports, including tennis and swimming, and she enjoys baking.

**Joseph Pearman** is studying chemistry, biology and French at A2 with the aim of studying biochemistry at university. In his spare time he is a very keen sportsman with a particular interest in cricket and athletics. He is a member at Studley Royal Cricket Club.

**Jonathan Pitts** is studying mathematics, English, psychology and French. He hopes to study education, English and drama at university. He studies voice and piano at Junior Royal Northern College of Music and has a passion for acting.

**Sally Pitts** is extremely excited about taking on the role of head girl for the next academic year. With her interests centred in humanities, she is hoping to study either French or history at university with a long term career plan involving the arts. She is very involved with the music and drama opportunities offered at school and in addition she studies flute and voice at the Junior Royal Northern College of Music.

**Derek van der Westhuizen** is head boy and is enjoying the experience. He is studying A-level chemistry, biology, physics and mathematics. He is hoping to study medicine at university as he wants to be a doctor. In his spare time he is a keen rugby player and plays for Ripon Rugby Club.

## STRING QUARTET SUCCESS

**Saturday, 1st June saw the Ripon Grammar School string quartet perform their first professional set at the wedding of Mr and Mrs Davies at Ripley Castle. The weather was most cooperative as the quartet performed outside, entertaining the guests in the sunshine.**

The selection was extremely varied, featuring Pachelbel's Canon, Mozart, Elgar's 'Chanson de Matin' and more contemporary favourites such as Gershwin's 'Summertime.'

Members Jessica Bryden on cello, Twm Stone and Lucy Watkiss on violin and Alice Shanahan on viola received a most positive and encouraging response which is a testament to much rehearsing and the growing orchestral talent at Ripon Grammar School. The quartet is also available for further bookings and events such as weddings and garden parties.

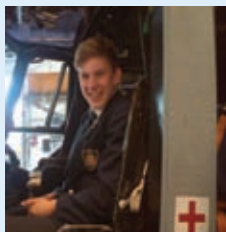
*Lucy Watkiss, L6F*





# SCIENCE

## RGS ENGINEERING



On behalf of all the students who have either attended an engineering talk or visit this year, the engineering committee would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents, ex-students, local businesses and colleagues from the wider community who have given their time this year to talk to us about their own engineering careers and provide insight into the various disciplines within the industry.

We have enjoyed talks from Mr Ken Bell, Mr John Brown, Mr Bob Hinchcliffe, Mr Adrian Lindley and Mrs Carolyn Smith in chemical, highways and transportation, mechanical, aeronautical and civil engineering respectively. We also enjoyed presentations in architecture and fusion physics from Mr James Elliott and Mr Sean Slattery, with visits to York University Plasma Institute and an engineering tour of RAF Dishforth. Thank you very much for giving up your time and enriching the engineering programme here at Ripon Grammar School.

If you would like to get involved next year please email the committee at [rgsengineering@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:rgsengineering@ripongrammar.co.uk)

*The Engineering Committee*



## NEWTON, FARADAY AND MR HIGGS...

Ripon Grammar School students have enjoyed a number of scientific excursions this year, following in the footsteps of some great thinkers. Whilst the upper-sixth physicists enjoyed a trip to CERN in Geneva to see the latest in particle physics, a group of keen fourth-year astronomers were learning how to defy gravity at the annual Institute of Physics talk hosted by Ermysted's Grammar School.

Meanwhile, after the Earth was hit by a powerful solar storm, our Faraday Challenge team Katherine Dale (2B), Ben Borchard (2B), Lucas Fawcett (2A), Luke Rennie (2A), Molly Morell (2C) and Mhairi Ellis (2C), who represented the school at St Aidan's in the annual event, were asked to build a prototype model that could send vital coded messages to a devastated town over twenty kilometres away over a mountain range. They produced an excellent working model that showcased their talents and successfully transmitted and decoded their message.

The team showed great determination throughout the day and were described by the Institute of Engineering and Technology as extremely enterprising, showing great scientific knowledge and practical skills with just a touch of madness! They were praised for their resilience when, after their circuit wires failed them at the last minute, they improvised using tin foil in which their packed lunches had been wrapped up in!

*Mr Barker*

## SECOND YEAR ENGINEERING CHALLENGE - BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

The second years have now completed their annual problem-solving project, an opportunity for them to work together in a team drawn from across the year group, developing their team work and problem-solving skills whilst appreciating the links that many of their subjects have in solving a problem.

This year a new challenge was set of designing and building a prototype model for a new sustainable classroom block here at Ripon Grammar School. The project involved students undertaking particular roles and working together as a company to win the contract to build the new classroom block. Please see the school website for information on the winning team and the design.



*Mr Barker*





# RIPON ROTARY PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB



*Photo by Lottie Robinson*

Ripon Grammar School's photographic club entered several members' work into the Ripon Rotary Schools' Photographic Competition and were rewarded with three top prizes. Lottie Robinson achieving first and third and Emma Money second place. The prizes were book tokens to the value of £20, £15 and £10.

The theme of 'Ripon' was very enjoyable as it was about the city in which we live and there were a lot of places and objects that would look amazing in photos. Mr Davis and Mr McLellan took us out on a walk all around Ripon and we took photos of places such as Ripon Cathedral that looked especially interesting due to the snow that had recently fallen. We took lots of different kinds of photographs, including a 'postcard photo' which showed the four telephone boxes inside the market place. We were allowed to enter three photographs for the competition and there was a wide variety entered by each person. In the end the photograph which won first prize was one of a path next to Ripon Canal which was taken by Lottie Robinson. The third prize was also given to Lottie Robinson; it was a photograph of four telephone boxes on the market square with a person in each of them. Second prize was given to Emma Money; it was a photo of Ripon Cathedral with snow on the ground.

This competition was enjoyed by everyone and the range of photographs was wonderful. Mr McLennan and Mr Davis helped us to get the best out of our cameras and showed us how to improve our photographic skills.

*Lottie Robinson and Emma Money, 1C*



*Photo by Emma Money*



*Photo by Lottie Robinson*

## CHESS CLUB

The Ripon Grammar School chess club meets every Thursday lunchtime in the school library. Students from the first form to the sixth form can attend, whatever their chess playing ability. As well as giving students the opportunity to play games against each other, a variety of activities are organised such as the very popular chess puzzles and individual or group coaching.

Chess is a great social activity. Able players help weaker ones and strategies are learned from each other. It is also a tremendous way of developing logical and spatial thinking, building up memory skills and the ability to plan ahead. Players learn to consider a variety of options and try to outfox their opponents: laying traps is all part of chess!

The club is run by Mr Winston, who was a keen player when he was at school, representing his county and then going on to represent England as a junior. He is also very experienced in organising chess clubs, training sessions and tournaments as he helped in the running of such activities for numerous years in London.

If you are interested in playing chess or mind games, do come along to the club and give it a go. No prior experience is needed as I am always happy to teach new players.

*Mr Winston*

## RGS NEWS CONTACT DETAILS

If you would like to include an article in the next edition of the RGS News, please contact Mrs Patricia Storey, headmaster's secretary, at [storeyp@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:storeyp@ripongrammar.co.uk)  
View RGS News on our website  
[www.ripongrammar.co.uk](http://www.ripongrammar.co.uk)