





# Welcome...

**I trust that this edition of the RGS News finds you well. The news and articles paint a picture of a very busy and productive term; I know that the students will be looking forward to their summer holiday!**



The year has been a very successful one and we have enjoyed the many events which have taken place over the past few weeks, such as the junior production of 'The Tempest', sports day, lower school prize-giving and the commemoration service in Ripon Cathedral. The open evening on 30 June for prospective students and their parents was very busy and the induction evening for the new Year 7 students, as well as the induction for the new sixth form, augur well for the coming academic year.

The classroom block is progressing very well with a scheduled completion date at the end of September 2014. Funding arrangements are now in place for the extension of Johnson House in order to increase the boarding capacity for girls' boarding. The completion date for Phase 1 is anticipated to be September 2015. The stonework at the front of school is finally complete and work has commenced on re-roofing part of the school. This should be completed by October 2014.

It is with sadness that we see a number of established staff leaving Ripon Grammar School at the end of this academic year. Mr McGrann, who is deputy head, is retiring having joined the school in 1994. He will be missed very much. His commitment and dedication to the welfare of the students has been exemplary and I know that he will miss the school as well.

Mrs Wise is also retiring after twenty-two years and she too has made a long-lasting impression on the school through her role as head of sixth form and her dedication and commitment. Mr Illingworth, head of geography and upper school, is retiring too this year, having served the school loyally since 1989. There will clearly be significant changes in the geography department from September!

There are also significant changes in the lower school office with Miss Raymer and Mr Colley securing posts in Malaysia and the Philippines respectively. Their replacements will be Mr Barker and Miss Hoskins. Mrs Wright and Mr Margerison will be running the Upper School office. Miss Jackson has accepted a post as director of music at Titus Salt School whilst Mr Thomas-Peter has been appointed head of modern foreign languages at Fulford School. Mrs Russell is also leaving to take up a post at St John Fisher RC High School in Harrogate. Our best wishes go to all the staff who are leaving this year and I hope that they will keep in touch in the years to come. Excellent appointments have been made to replace all members of staff who are leaving this academic year, so 2014-15 promises to be a very busy and exciting year for us all.

With best wishes for a happy and relaxing summer break and I look forward to seeing you in the coming year.

Yours sincerely

**M L Pearman (Headmaster)**

## Hola, Tamara Bernal!

For the last nine months I have been the Spanish assistant at Ripon Grammar School. I am from a small city called Cuenca in the South of Ecuador where I live with my parents, grandmother and two schnauzer dogs. I finished school last year, mainly focusing my studies in the science fields of chemistry and biology. I have two older siblings, a brother and a sister, who are in fact twins. Whilst in the UK I have had to make a few video calls to my family, mainly to my sister who recently got married and, even though I wasn't there, I didn't want to miss any part of her wedding!

I have become quite independent during my nine months here and I have been on many adventures and travels; these have included seeing a vast majority of England and travelling to places such as Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Spain, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Czech Republic and Austria. My favourite experience whilst travelling was seeing snow for the first time, surprisingly in Madrid!

After I leave here I am hoping to study a Bachelor of Chemistry with Forensic Science at a University in Canada. I have had a wonderful time filled with many memories of my time at Ripon Grammar School. Thank you to everyone who has made my stay so enjoyable.



## The U6 Leavers' Celebration Evening 2014

**As the oldest students reach the end of their time at Ripon Grammar school, the celebration evening offers a wonderful opportunity for students, parents and staff to celebrate their many achievements and experiences during their time here.**

This year's event on Thursday 22nd May saw almost all upper sixth students and their parents, (and in some cases their grandparents), gather in the Hall to share a farewell drink and a chat. A particular highlight was the video from this year group's second year French Trip to Normandy, which showed some almost unrecognisably cherubic faces.

Farewell speeches from the Headboy and Headgirl reflected very fondly upon their time here, whilst, Mr Pearman and Mr Fell paid tribute to the immense contribution that this year group have made to the school around them, and looked forward to the exciting futures that lie ahead of our departing students.

We hope that they will stay closely in touch with us in the years ahead, and we wish them great happiness and success in their lives and careers to come.



# Work Experience

## Cameron O'Donnell

### Headingley, Leeds

For my work experience I spent a week at Headingley, Leeds working for Pro Coach Cricket Academy, who organise cricket coaching for youngsters through to professional cricket players.

My working day began at 9am and finished at 5pm. To get to my work placement in time I caught a train from Knaresborough at 8am which arrived at Burley Park in time for me to walk to Pro Coach and arrive by 9am. This was the first time I had travelled independently by train and I was very anxious, but now I have done it I will be happy to do it again.

On the first day I was very nervous but the office staff made me feel welcome. Throughout the week I experienced different aspects of the various jobs that people do there. I coached some primary school children and also gave tours of the Headingley stadium. As the week went on I was given more tasking jobs to do. At the start I was only helping out with coaching but at the end I was running some of the exercises we did. When giving the tours I watched how the coaches went about showing the children around and keeping them interested and involved, so that I could lead a tour at the end of the week.

I really enjoyed my time at Pro Coach and would definitely recommend it to anyone else who enjoys cricket.

Cameron O'Donnell, 4C



## Zoe Langham

### James Cook Hospital

To say that I was nervous when I arrived for my first day at James Cook Hospital's childcare unit would have been an understatement, compounded by an exceedingly embarrassing entrance as I hid myself in a parent's jacket to get through following three failed attempts at the intercom and childproof entrance. However, after a swift anti-child lock crash course and a sweep of the premises, I was ready to face the baby room. It was here I spent the next few days learning the rigorous cleaning and feeding that envelops new mothers and the never ending questions of :-

"When does one surrender the launch-the-fishfingers-and-cry-until-they-can-be-launched-again game?", "Will visitors notice the processed pea splats on the roof?" and "What do you do when they begin lodging baked beans up their noses?"

Yet despite all this; it was a week of non-stop play and laughs as the babies attempted their first words and instinctively mimicked our every move. Even the unexpected allergies, sensitive skin, and the prospect of using the Epi-pen was as exciting as it was daunting.

However my experience there has made me realise not just the physical challenge that would come with working in the Accident and Emergency department with children of such a young age, but the emotional challenge that would inevitably come with it. It has definitely made me reflect on whether seeing babies in a trauma ward on a daily basis would be too upsetting, realising that unfortunately injury at that age is just as common as it is with adults.

At the end of the week it was hard to imagine a weekend without bottle feeding or crying, and my clothes being tomato sauce free. I can't thank the staff there enough for the patience and kindness they showed towards me, and for the invaluable life skills I have picked up from the experience. I hope to revisit the hospital when I am in the sixth form in order to develop these skills further. The facilities and staff are superb and I would encourage anyone thinking about work experience in a medical environment to do the same; you won't regret it.

Zoe Langham, 4B



## Hannah-Olivia Foster

### Bishopton Veterinary Practice

After much anticipation of the fourth year work experience week, I couldn't believe it when it finally arrived. It had been a long time coming and I was very excited to spend a week working with the vets and veterinary nurses at Bishopton Veterinary Practice.

I have always wanted to be a vet and the week at Bishopton has just fuelled my ambition. The whole experience was very informative and, during my time there, I was lucky enough to encounter many interesting cases.

On the first morning, I observed a double perineal hernia and castration of a Rhodesian Ridgeback performed by veterinarian Ian McClive. The condition can be diagnosed by the physical features of swelling of the perineal area, protrusion from the pelvis or surrounding areas, and the inability to control the bowels. It is a very tricky procedure because it involves sewing three pieces of tissue together to create a muscle around the anus made more complicated by the fact it has to be done twice followed by a castration (which is necessary to shrink the prostate.) The operation took three hours in total but it will change the life of a very grateful dog (and owner)! It's all in a day's work for these vets though.

On Wednesday, I visited the Pateley Bridge branch of the practice and witnessed the removal of a histiocytoma on a Border Terrier cross puppy called Sidney. A histiocytoma is a benign growth of the skin which is commonly seen in young dogs. Usually the growth regresses over two months without treatment however the growth can often look more sinister than they actually are. This is because they grow rapidly and can appear ulcerated and very sore. Normally these growths appear on a dog's legs or ears though strangely, in Sidney's case, the growth was actually on his stomach. Sidney's growth was removed during a small operation and it won't take long before he is back to his usual self.

On the Friday morning, the practice was booming with clients and sick patients; the hospital was almost filled to capacity and the operation's board was full. Even though everyone was so busy, veterinary nurse, Rachel very kindly took the time to talk to me about a number of different post operation x-rays as they were performed. This was really interesting and informative.

During the day, the vets also had two puppies brought in for consultation due to entropion. Entropion is where the eyelid slightly folds in and the eye lashes rub against the eye ball. The two puppies (one a Golden Retriever and one a Shar Pei) had their affected eyelid partially sewn shut so the hairs could not rub against the eyelid and this would relieve the ulcerated corneas. In a few weeks they will return for their corrective surgery.

Nearing the end of the day, a very unfortunate Chihuahua arrived who had been hit by a car. She was immediately put into intensive care unit, monitored and stabilised before being whisked off to x-ray. She did have a skull fracture which was clear on the x-rays. Unfortunately the day ended at 5 o'clock so I wasn't able to see how she progressed.

My work experience week was exciting, with everyday being different. All the staff at Bishopton Veterinary Practice were so welcoming and happy to explain the different cases and procedures so I really gained a good insight into life as a vet... which is what work experience is all about!

Hannah-Olivia Foster, 4A



## Rebecca Kent

### Harrogate International Festival

I wasn't sure what to expect as I made my way to the Harrogate International Festival office, I needn't of worried as a great team full of friendly faces welcomed me. I was surprised to learn of the broad range of events that the Festival puts on, from the Spiegeltent, Summer Festival and even crime writing to name a



few. During my week I was lucky enough to help with the build-up to the children's festival. Preparation for this included designing posters, promoting the event around Harrogate and local schools and even appearing on Stray FM! As the week came to an end I was sad that my time working with such an amazing team was nearly over, but I am looking forward to working with the festival team again in the summer and can't thank the team enough for giving me such a enjoyable week.

Rebecca Kent, 4B



# Library News

## A Feast of Reading with SALAD on the Side

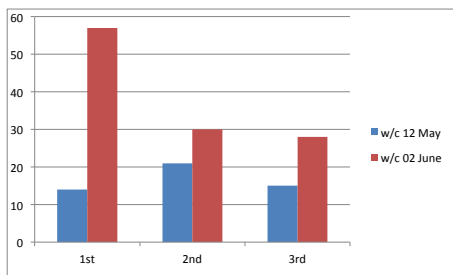
With the Upper School mainly involved in examinations, the week following half term was the ideal time for a special literacy focus at Ripon Grammar School.



The week was designated as one of our special Reading Weeks where students are encouraged to read more often and more widely. Staff had even provided the information for a display about what they themselves were in the middle of reading and this was in prominent position in the school foyer.

There was a noticeable increase in students coming to the library to borrow books, particularly during Form Time, and this is reflected in the statistics if we compare a 'normal week' to the Reading Week (week commencing 2nd June).

### Library Borrowing Figures



Of course, this doesn't show the whole picture as many students bring in their own books from home.

To complement the Reading Week we decided to hold our first ever SALAD afternoon. SALAD stands for Speaking And Listening Active Development,

where the focus for all lessons is on improving our speaking and listening skills. Writing and typing is avoided. There was a definite buzz about the school with some wonderful activities taking place.

In Art lessons, the first form were looking at the development of landscape paintings through time. They had been asked to research a given artist and find an example of one of their landscape paintings. Each student then gave a short presentation to the class with brief details of their findings, along with three creative sentences they had written about the artwork they were showing.

The class then went on to look at and discuss poems with descriptions of landscapes, thinking about how the words created a picture in your mind.

Mathematics students looked at lots of statements, such as "all prime numbers are odd", and in pairs discussed them, deciding whether they were always, never or sometimes true. Other students used the opportunity to revise in a more unusual fashion, by testing each other verbally on mathematics topics and by working out the answers to test questions in discussion. In third form there was a discussion on mathematics in real life.

Third form students in English took part in 'hot seating' sessions. They had prepared a small introduction to a character selected from the book 'Lord of the Flies' and then had to become that character to answer questions directed at them by the rest of the class. It was challenging, but fun!

Following their week out of school on Work Experience, fourth form students had to give a short talk about what they had done and what they felt they had gained from the experience.

Another English lesson with first form pupils focussed on creative speaking as opposed to creative writing. The session was based on the five senses, with a trigger for each sense to stimulate the students' creative thoughts.

For sight it was a picture of a snow-capped mountain; hearing was listening to a recording of gunfire in a battle; for touch students found something in their bag to give to their partner who had to feel it without looking and then describe it as though to an alien who had never come across it before; taste buds were stimulated with sweets; and finally the sense of smell was awakened by a dab of sun cream bringing back lazy, hazy summer days. One student said the smell of the sun cream was "a key unlocking long forgotten memories".

In German, a game of "Who am I?", where a post-it note with a character's name is placed on people's foreheads without their knowing who it is, gave students lots of opportunity to use varied vocabulary and sentence structure in the quest to discover their true identity!

First form library lessons consisted of the students telling other members of a group all about one of their favourite books, which they had brought in in advance.

Although this gave students practice in their speaking skills, listening was also vital as they were then challenged to tell the rest of the class all about someone else's book. Students then watched book trailers on screen and discussed what makes a good one. This is in preparation for creating their own trailers for their favourite books.

Feedback has shown that staff and students alike all enjoyed the SALAD afternoon, relishing the opportunity to try a different way of teaching and learning and to improve the vital literacy skills of speaking and listening. We hope to repeat this experience next year.

Mrs Dring, Literacy Co-ordinator



# Barcelona Trip 2014

**This year, twenty-eight pupils in the fourth year, lower-sixth and upper-sixth travelled to Barcelona at the end of the Easter term to put their Spanish-speaking skills into practice and to experience the rich and vibrant culture that the city has to offer.**



Despite a rather early departure time of 5am from school, the pupils arrived enthusiastic and ready for the trip ahead, with some anxious about the linguistic challenges

that lay ahead and others anticipating their first visit to Spain. Once landed, checked-in and unpacked, the group took a gentle stroll through the city to what would prove to be, for some of the group, the favourite location of the week: the FresCo restaurant! Here the group was treated to a wonderful array of healthy and delicious food, just what was needed after a long day's travel! It also allowed Oscar Lyons to show off his amazing ability of eating vast quantities of food without becoming full, a feat which he repeated on a daily basis!

The next morning, the group woke eager and ready to feel the Spanish sun on their skin. Unfortunately, curtains were opened to reveal grey skies and rain which lasted for most of the day.

Luckily, the group spent the morning inside the local language school brushing up on their speaking and listening skills, which proved to be very popular and certainly prepared all of the pupils well for communicating with the locals when they then went to discover what the famous Las Ramblas eateries had to offer. It was fantastic to see pupils ordering authentic Spanish meals in the language, with some trying certain dishes for the very first time.

Following this, the group travelled across to Gaudi's iconic Sagrada Familia cathedral, where a guided tour provided them with interesting facts about the design and significance of the beautiful building.

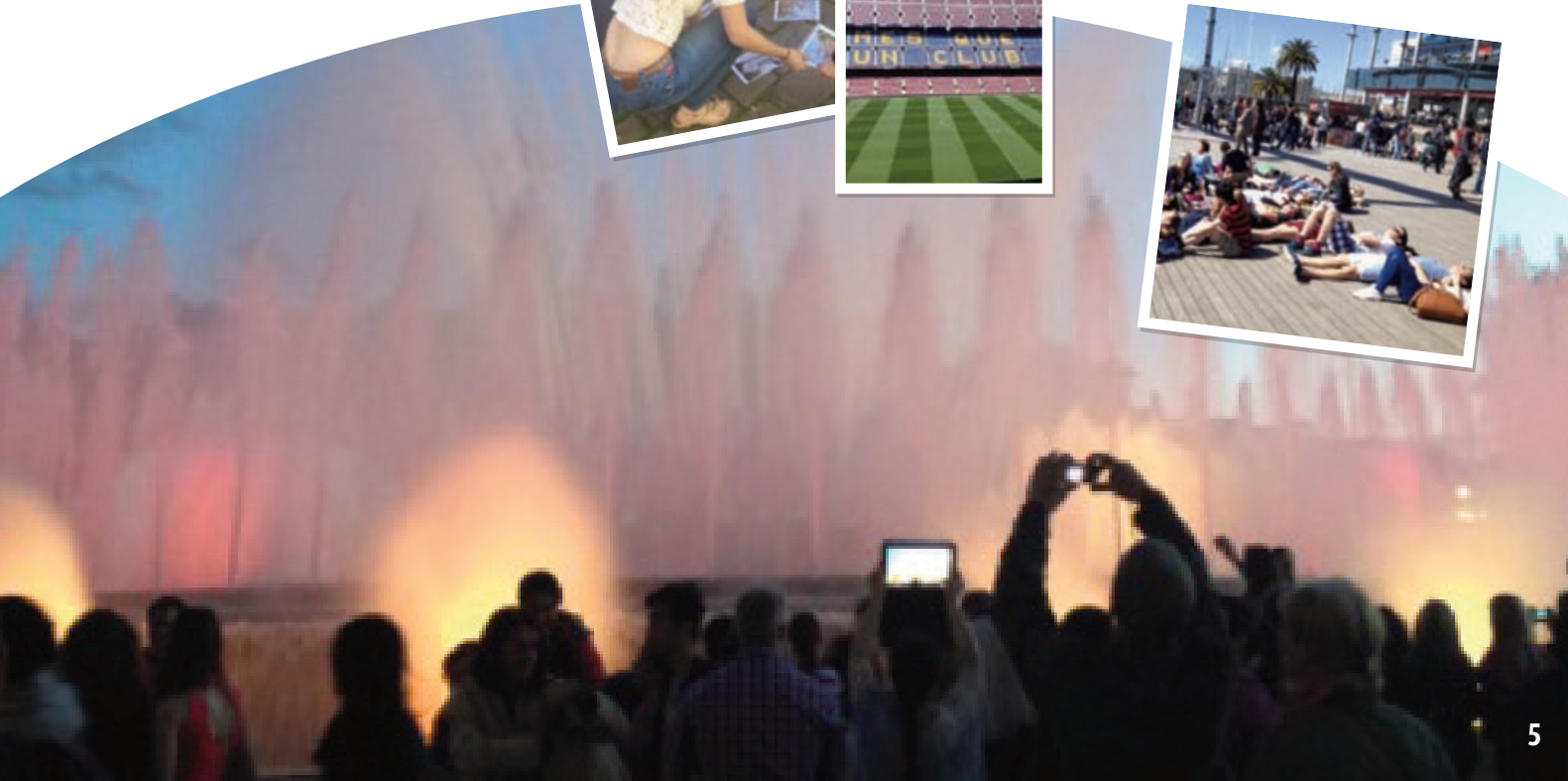
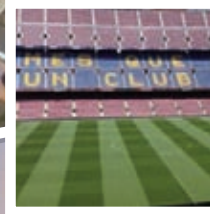
The next day, pupils spent the morning wandering in the sunshine through the famous Gaudi-designed Park Güell. It was here where the group had the first of many meetings with an Italian school trip, the female members of which took a shine to James Jackson, who they seemed to have mistaken for a certain member of 'One Direction'! Once James had finished signing autographs and posing for 'selfies', the group once again returned to Las Ramblas for lunch before visiting and touring the Nou Camp, FC Barcelona's football stadium. Whilst not all of the pupils share my passion for football, the access-all-areas tour impressed everyone and provided the whole group with a truly unique experience. After dinner, pupils then travelled to the Montjuic Palace where they experienced an amazing dancing-fountains show at night, accompanied by spectacular lights and music.

On Saturday, the group travelled to the centre of the city to take part in 'The Game', an interactive challenge where pupils had to navigate their way through the city in groups using a map and completing a series of activities in set locations. Indeed, in a nail-biting finale there were three different teams in with a chance to win! Following lunch and a visit to the renowned Bocqueria Market, the group then wandered along the seafront to the Aquarium, which boasts an extremely impressive underwater walkway. Then it was on to the beach for a spot of sun-bathing and a brief paddle in the Mediterranean, before heading to the Maremagnum complex to experience late night shopping the Spanish way!

On the final day, the group had time for one final visit to Poble Espanyol, a picturesque walled Spanish village which has been maintained to reflect what Spanish life was like in the past. In the blistering sunshine, pupils enjoyed wandering through the old streets, sampling authentic local cuisine and seeing craftsmen creating a variety of different items using traditional methods. It was the perfect way to end what had been a fantastic trip!

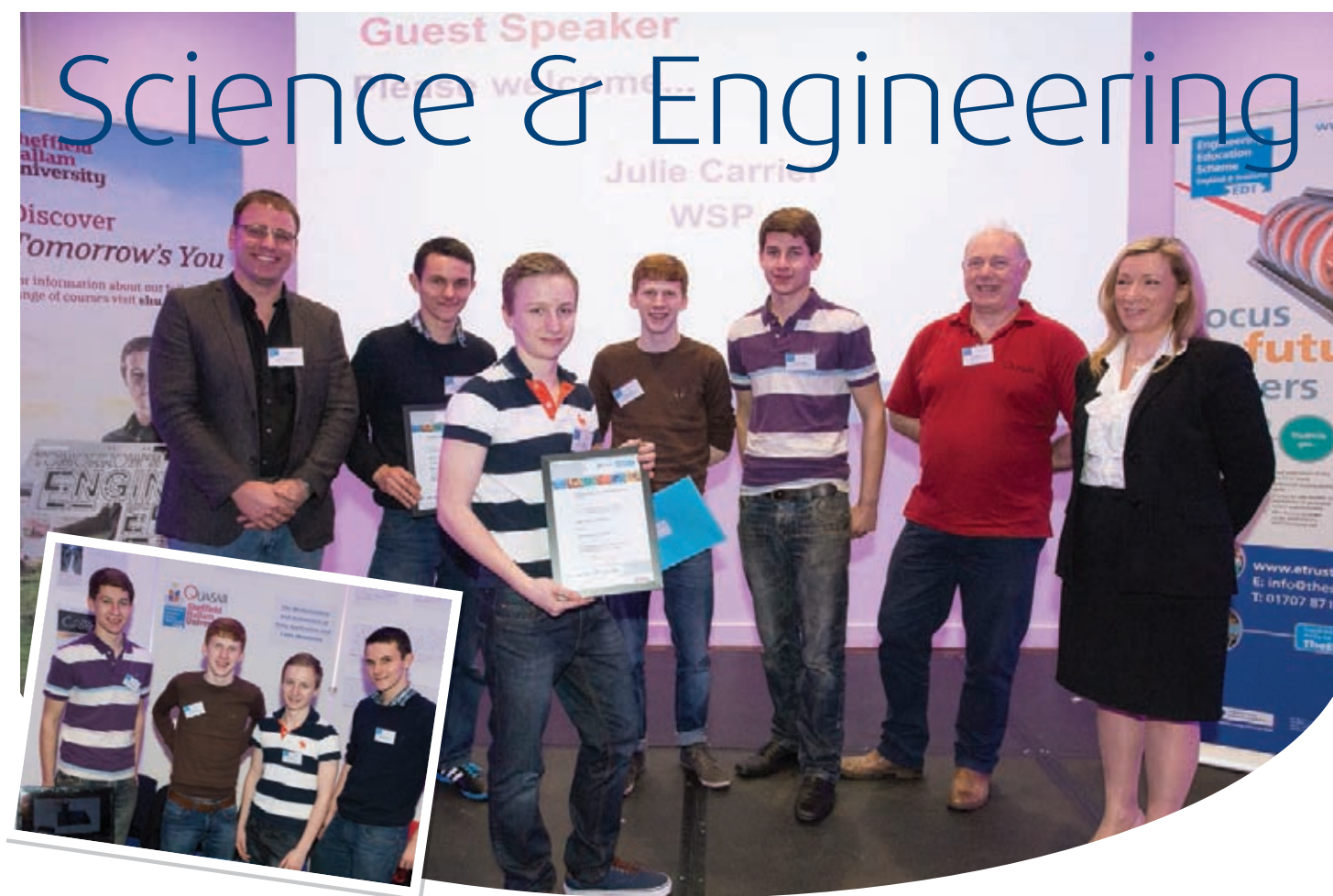
I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Mrs Swainston and Mrs Hogan for accompanying the trip and for the enthusiasm and organisation they brought to each and every activity. Equally, every single member of the group conducted themselves impeccably and took full advantage of the opportunities presented to them, which was excellent to see. Indeed, transporting a group of twenty-eight pupils round a major city on the metro is a daunting prospect but the maturity shown by all made this a relatively simple task. Thank you to everyone who made this trip such a success and hopefully everyone left with memories that will remain with them for a long time to come!

**Mr Thomas-Peter**





# Science & Engineering



## Engineering Education Scheme

**RGS News has been following the progress of our Engineering Education Scheme team this year.**

In the last issue the team, James Walker, David Stone, Zak O'Brien and Zach Mudge were busy putting the final touches to their air pressure controlled cake icing dispensing system and preparing their presentation to be given to a panel of engineering experts at Sheffield Hallam University on 10th April. On the day, the team were also interviewed by a British Science Association examiner who praised the team for their knowledge and enthusiasm for the project. Needless to say the team passed and received their EES certificates. The BSA assessor was certainly impressed and awarded each team member a Gold Crest Award after commenting that their final mark was only achieved by 1 in 50 teams!

The students worked with Bob Hinchcliffe, managing director of Quasar Automation in Mickley, working on their project in their free periods and getting the bus over to Mickley during the sixth form's Wednesday afternoon enrichment programme. They also completed a three-day residential at Sheffield Hallam University.

The four students have great futures ahead of them and have developed the key skills that all employers are looking for, but given the students are looking at degrees in mechanical engineering, aerospace engineering and mathematics. I am pleased we have contributed such talent to help with the UK's chronic shortage of engineers. I hope the students' success will inspire younger generations to get involved with the Science and Engineering Society here at Ripon Grammar School.

Many students this year have benefitted from a number of science and engineering talks but special thanks must go to Bob Hinchcliffe and the team at Quasar Automation for their support with the EES. Our students wouldn't have had this opportunity if it wasn't for Bob, who is a great supporter of the school. He has offered many of our students work experience; one former student, Mark Robinson, is currently working at Quasar whilst studying for a foundation degree, and Luke Lavell is due to join as an apprentice after his A-levels this year. I hope the project will inspire other businesses and parents to get involved with the Science & Engineering Society and the Engineering Education Scheme.

**Mr Barker**

[rgsengineering@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:rgsengineering@ripongrammar.co.uk)



## A summer of success for RGS Chemistry students

**The school's team, comprising Matthew Griffiths, Jonathan Tanner, Louisa Chatterton and Georgie Taylor, represented Yorkshire in the National Finals of the Royal Society of Chemistry's 'Top of the Bench' competition.**

Tough individual challenges were tackled in the morning and a successful team task in the afternoon resulted in a creditable sixteenth position overall.

During the summer Patrick Moon, Thomas Loudon and Jonathan Tanner will also be attending Salters' Chemistry Camps at York and Nottingham Universities.

At the Festival of Chemistry at the University of Leeds, the team of first year students, comprising Abigail Baldwin, Charlotte Crum, George Exley and Joseph Foster, were runners up in the Salters' Challenge. Their efficient and effective teamwork, coupled with beakers of enthusiasm, ensured success!

**Mrs Lewis**



## Greenpower Car Club Developments

**By the time you read this the 2014 Greenpower racing season will be well under way and we will have competed in the North East Heat at the Croft Racing Circuit (2nd July).**

Both our Junior and Senior Greenpower teams have been busy this term preparing our electric racing cars for the race. We have enjoyed considerable success over the years at Croft with both the Carbon Comet and Electric Chair but last year both cars suffered from low battery voltage mid-race due to tired old batteries which spoilt any chances of a podium finish for us. Once again Greenpower have introduced several new rules for this season, the most radical being a change from a single four hour race, to two one and a half races. Six drivers will be able to race in each car as before, only for a little less time. Each car is now allowed only one pair of batteries per race. Battery age and condition with therefore be crucial. Teams who can afford to replace their batteries regularly certainly have an advantage. Ripon Auto Electrics have very kindly provided our team with four new batteries which we will use on the 'Comet, our most efficient car at present. The 'Chair will have to make do with the best batteries selected from our old stock. All new batteries are now inspected and sealed by Greenpower after it was discovered that some teams were tampering with their batteries to improve performance – Formula 1 isn't so different!

For our stalwart fifth year team members, Croft will mark the end of their driving careers in the Formula 24 class. There is a new class just for sixth formers named Formula 24plus which we hope to enter a team in for 2015. I am also grateful to our upper sixth Greenpower Club mentors Luke Lavell and Yiannis Matheos (pictured above) who have done a sterling job of coaching our younger members during club meetings and races. As you read this, Luke begins an apprenticeship with a respected engineering firm who design and make robots for the catering industry and in September Yiannis will begin his flight training as an airline pilot having recently gained his private pilot's licence and won a scholarship with Jet 2 – nice work!

Mr Mann

## Science & Engineering Society

### a special thanks...

The Science and engineering society have been exceptionally busy this year, running science and engineering talks, organising the Science & Engineering week in March and running the afterschool science club 'The Elementals'.

Special thanks go to Oliver Grady, Head of the Science and Engineering Society and his deputy Kate Hadley. Special thanks also go to Ed Ward and Luke Lavell for their support and to the current L6 members who will take the society forward next year.

Everyone involved will be very sorry to see Oliver and Kate leave this year but we wish them well for their future studies and hope they will come back to RGS as guest speakers in the future!

The Elementals, aka the lower school science club, have had a great year under the care of Kate Hadley and her team, Joanna Coates, Anabelle Ayliffe, Yasmin Prendergast and Julia Atherley and we are very much looking forward to our end-of-year science trip to Magna Science Centre in June. See the website for pictures!

Mr Barker



# UK Junior Quiz Challenge

**On the 20th May, RGS hosted the North Regional Final for the UK Junior School Challenge 2014 (University Challenge for Schools) and our congratulations go to the RGS team, Dominic Livesey (1B), Joe Willis (2B), Gus Smith (2B) and Jonathan McCann (2C) for their sterling performance on the day.**



The RGS team were up against Barnard Castle in their first semi-final round and beat off the competition 340 to 230 points. Next up were Argyle House, with lightning quick reactions on the buzzer they managed to keep RGS at bay, 440 points to 270.

The team were gracious in defeat and made our guests very welcome throughout the afternoon. We look forward to 2015 already! Here are some starter questions from the final...how would you get on?

(Answers at the bottom)

Mr Barker

## Quiz Questions:

1. What name is given to people whose profession is researching family ancestry?
2. What would you normally make in a percolator?
3. On which date is All Souls' Day?
4. Ganymede and Europa are moons orbiting which planet?
5. Jacob Rees-Mogg, Phillip Hammond and Theresa May are all MPs for which political party?
6. According to the nursery rhyme, what is Little Boy Blue asked to do?
7. What type of creature is a black widow?
8. Through which European capital does the Liffey flow?
9. Sic vita, So ist das Leben and C'est la vie are all expressions in other languages of what colloquialism conveying acceptance of misfortune?
10. In basketball, for how long may an offensive player remain in the key?

**Answers:** Genealogist, Coffee, November 2nd, Jupiter, Conservative / Tory, Blow on his horn, Spider, Dublin, That's life / Such is life, Three seconds



# Parents' Association

## NEWS FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

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

We have raised in excess of £11,000 through various activities and events and as a result have been able to support a diverse number of departments not least the school mini bus which is entirely paid for by the PA.

The year began with a wine, cheese and quiz evening aimed primarily at the parents of new starters in September. In October we welcomed back the Ripon Rowel 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. January's Burns' night, in its tenth year, was a sell-out, the Astronomy evenings got underway in January without the usual weather hitch and with over fifty parents and students enjoying their tour of the stars and planets. The "Grand Summer Treats" raffle remains our biggest fund-raiser, and it's easy to see why given the calibre of prizes.

It is always good to see a winner and last year's was the Scannell family who attended Rudding Park for a wild food-foraging expedition with TV celebrity chef, Stephanie Moon. This year's first prize is an overnight stay at the Yorke Arms, Ramsgill and the lucky couple will be notified after the draw on the 7th July. (A list of all winners can be found on the school website). We are grateful to the many parents and businesses who generously donate prizes to make this such a great fund-raiser.

Throughout the year you will have seen a team of volunteers who offer refreshments at various school events. These are an important source of income so a huge thank you goes to all those ladies for their time and baking skills. Please contact [pa@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:pa@ripongrammar.co.uk) if you would like to volunteer too!! The '200 Club' continues to flourish and contributes over £1,000 to our total figure raised each year; at only £1.25 per month you could win a prize each month of either £50 or £25. An application form is available from the school website.

We are launching a currency collection project called 'Cash4Coins'. You can help by simply sorting out any old foreign notes and coins left over from holidays and business trips. A collection bucket will be available in class room N2 at break times. All this currency is then forwarded to 'Cash4Coins' and turned into a useful donation for school.

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 feel able to provide. On the website is a form, "Your PA Needs You" which you can download and complete to advise us how you feel 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 process by coming along to our meetings. These are held approximately every 5-6 weeks in term time. 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 minibus, 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, a defibrillator for community use, hockey masks, table tennis tables, i-pads for recording information for the PE and theatre studies departments, an outdoor public address system, and language recording devices to name but a few items.



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 RGSPA

### Forthcoming dates for your diary (to be held at RGS)

**8 September 7pm** Parents' Association Meeting

**26 September 7.30pm** New starter parents' social  
Cheese, Wine and Quiz

**7 October 7pm** Parents' Association AGM  
All welcome

**17 October 7.30pm**  
Murder Mystery "Death, Deceit and a Major Cockup!"

Wine, dine and feast from the best dessert trolley in town while the murder mystery play unfolds around you.

Tables/tickets (£18pp) can be reserved now by emailing [pa@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:pa@ripongrammar.co.uk)

**27 November 7pm**

Christmas Cookery and Flower Demonstration

Contact [pa@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:pa@ripongrammar.co.uk) if you are interested in taking a stall or offering sponsorship

(Mid-summer Ball report and pictures will be in the next issue)

# Amnesty International Society

Amnesty International's iconic logo of a candle wrapped in barbed wire was inspired by this ancient Chinese proverb and reflects the founder, Peter Benenson's, hope that its work would shine a light in the darkest of places where human rights abuses go unpunished.

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights. At the start of the academic year, I decided to start our own student-run Amnesty International Society here at Ripon Grammar School.

I established this society as I felt that many students at RGS were simply unaware of the breaches of human rights that happen globally even within the twenty-first century. The society now has over twenty students who come to meetings every week to discuss and act on human rights abuses. During this academic year we have already covered a multitude topics including abuse against women, sex trafficking and gay rights.

Although these topics are hard-hitting, and often upsetting, all members have showed so much enthusiasm and genuine interest which the society has embraced. One of my favourite meetings was during the run-up to Christmas when we partook in the 'Write for Rights' campaign in which we all wrote Christmas cards to those having their own human rights breached. For example, we wrote to Miriam Lopez, who was kidnapped at random, raped and



tortured by soldiers in Mexico. This year we also had a message from Mimi Chakarova, the writer and director of the award-winning documentary Price of Sex, (a documentary about sex trafficking in the former Soviet block) stating: "It's words like yours that inspire me to continue doing good work and to live a life of service. For that I am deeply grateful to you."

For reasons like this I believe our Amnesty Society, however small, is so worthwhile – not only for students to engage with wider global issues but also to aid and help those whose human rights are being abused. We currently welcome all sixth form students but are keen to engage fifth and fourth years within the society too. Next year, myself and the amnesty group hope to do fundraising so are keen to involve more members! Meetings are held every Monday lunch time at 1.15pm in SF5/6. If you have any questions about the society, please feel free to ask me or any of our current members.

Megan Jones, L6A





# School Officers 2014

*The new school officers who have been appointed to lead the student body at Ripon Grammar School 2014-15,*

*(L-R) Joseph Lewis, Tom Stringer, head boy Nicholas Edwards, head girl Lauren Langham, Melody Swiers, Sophie Charlton and Hannah Moss*

## Seven role models have been selected to lead and represent the student body at their school.

Ripon Grammar School has appointed its head boy and head girl and their five deputies who will take office next month and serve for 12 months prior to leaving school next summer.

Sixth formers Nicholas Edwards and Lauren Langham are supported by Joseph Lewis, Tom Stringer, Sophie Charlton, Hannah Moss and Melody Swiers.

The students had to apply for the posts, be interviewed by headmaster, Martin Pearman and head of sixth form, Terry Fell, and seek views from staff and their peer group. The final decision is taken by the Senior Leadership Team.

Lauren is studying A levels in biology, chemistry, mathematics and English literature with a plan to read medicine at university.

The 17-year-old, of Ripon, who recently played Cosette in the school production of Les Miserables, said: "One of our main roles is to organise Charity Week in October and we sit on the School Council, liaising between students and teachers."

Nicholas, 16, of Ripon, who is studying English, Spanish, mathematics and chemistry, plays hockey for North Yorkshire, is a swimming coach and plays the piano, added: "We also have a number of public speaking roles throughout the year and host visitors in school."

Pianist and violinist Joe, 16, of Harrogate, is studying chemistry, mathematics, biology and German at A level and hopes to go on to study medicine, while Tom, 17, of Ripon, is studying history, mathematics, further mathematics and chemistry.

Sophie, 17, of Boroughbridge, is hoping to further explore opportunities for a career in politics or law when she does work experience at the United Nations in Geneva in October.

Hannah, 17, of Bedale, joined Ripon Grammar School this year having spent the last three years living in the United Arab Emirates. With plans to be a primary school teacher, she is studying English literature, drama and theatre studies, psychology and geography.

Musical Melody plays the flute and trumpet. The 17-year-old from Boroughbridge is taking A levels in biology, chemistry, mathematics and further mathematics and hopes to study veterinary medicine at university.

Headmaster, Martin Pearman, said: "As always, we had a large number of high calibre students to choose from for these important roles. The positions are wide-ranging, requiring leadership, diplomacy and tact. I'm confident our new head boy, head girl and their deputies will fulfil their roles confidently and effectively".

# RE London Trip

## The RE trip to London at the end of May was an extraordinary weekend of learning and fun.

London is such an amazing city and full of people from every part of the globe. Our hostel was in the Lea valley near the national White Water sports centre. We learned a great deal about the history, beliefs and practices of Hinduism by visiting two Hindu temples. The key principle of this religion is 'ahimsa' or non-violence which is why it is a vegetarian faith and the two Hindu meals we ate were delicious! Visits to the Natural History Museum, the London Eye, the Lyceum theatre, Madame Tussauds and Wembley Stadium all reminded us that London truly is a world class city.

Mr Clarke



We learned the traditional Hindu 'Namaste' greeting - 'With all the love of my heart I pay respect to you the soul within.'



We saw Alex Revell score one of the greatest goals ever scored at the world's greatest football stadium (watch it if you don't believe us!)



We found a few moments of peace and beauty in a garden created to remember George Harrison, one of the Beatles who became a Hindu.



The Lion King was a magical and moving musical about good and evil.



We had a divine view of one of the world's greatest cities.



It was amazing to look down on the most famous Parliament in the world.



Bhaktivedanta Manor (UK headquarters of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness)

Swaminarayan Mandir (Hindu Temple)



# Iceland 2014

**A group of intrepid sixth form geographers, along with Mrs Wise and Miss Murray, set off for Iceland at 12pm on Wednesday 2nd April.**

Wrapped up warm in several layers of thermals and armed with cameras and mobile phones, we headed down the M1 for Luton airport. Bleary-eyed but excited we arrived in the early morning at Reykjavik and headed, via a field of bubbling mud puddles and smelly fumeroles (known locally as Dante's Inferno!), for the Blue Lagoon, a sumptuous 38° C geothermal pool full of therapeutic algae. It was not long before all of the students had caked their faces in silica mud and were bathing in the luxurious blue-green water. It quickly became evident, much to the amusement of our field studies tutor, Ian, that this was going to be the holiday of the 'selfie'! At every possible opportunity cameras on mobile phones were catching the moment - walking through the amazing Mid-Atlantic rift valley with the North American continental plate on one side and the European plate on the other; gazing into the bright-red Kerio Crater; standing next to the spectacular Gullfoss waterfall; scrambling behind the coastal waterfalls created by the uplifting southern coastline; licking (yes, licking!) the Solheimajokull glacier; waiting expectantly for the regular eruption of the Strokkur geyser; gathering in the cave on the amazing black basalt beach near Vik, with its stunning hexagonal basalt columns.

As well as our action-packed geography days, the evenings were filled with visits to the local outdoor swimming complex where (for the princely sum of 80p!), the students were able to impress the locals with their high-volume enthusiasm for coming down the flume as 'human trains' or wallowing in the hot tub - where apparently (according to Bently!) it was possible to get chatted up by a Viking!

On our last afternoon we spent some time in Reykjavik where we visited the Volcano House and had afternoon tea consisting of creamy hot chocolate and delicious local cake - this visit was made even more special when James Riley commandeered the grand piano and entertained us, and other visitors, with an amazing piano recital!

All-in-all it was a spectacular trip and hopefully will become a regular feature of RGS geography!

**Mrs C Wise**



# French Exchange

**At the break of dawn twenty eight Ripon Grammar School pupils departed from the bus park for the twenty-fifth annual French Exchange trip.**

The coach journey to Pont l'Abbé d'Arnoult was long, and filled with nerves, as we anticipated what our families for the next ten days would be like.

When we reached our destination we were introduced to our partners, and briskly driven to our new homes. It had been an exhausting day, so it was straight to bed on our first night in France! The following day was spent getting to know our host families. My partner took me to the local town of Rochefort, which was a very pretty place.

On the second day of our trip we all met up without our partners to have a catch-up and tell each other how we were getting on. We enjoyed a game of bowling, visited a Roman amphitheatre and walked around the town of Saintes. This was to be the last time we would see each other for five days!

During the next few days we stayed with our host families and experienced French life. I tried snails and oysters for the first time, and visited many places, including the local aquarium and zoo. My family took me to visit La Rochelle too.

After these few days we experienced a day in a French school. It was their first day of term, and we sat with our partners throughout their lessons and lunch. I experienced a Spanish lesson taught in French which was rather confusing! The next day included an excursion to Cognac, along with our exchange partners. We took a tour around the famous distilleries, and then spent the rest of the day exploring the town. That night was an emotional one, as it was our final night in France. The following morning we had to wake up at 4am and bid our farewells, before boarding the coach for the long return journey home.

Then, we had to wait until April this year for the arrival of our partners here in the UK. When they finally arrived it was a very exciting time, as we had been looking forward to introducing the English culture to them. Like us, when we arrived in France, they were very tired, so they went to sleep straight away. However the next day was livelier, as they got to know our families and settled into their new environment! I took my partner to visit Filey, and introduced her to fish and chips for the first time (they were a hit!) The next day was spent as a group in York. We walked part of the York walls, visited the Jorvik Viking Centre, and then spent the rest of the day undergoing a bit of retail therapy.

We spent the next few days just with our families, visiting the local tourist attractions and embracing the British culture. My partner had never tried Yorkshire puddings before, so we introduced her to those. They, too, were a great success! The day before our return to school our partners went off on their own excursion to visit Whitby and travel on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. It was nice for them to be able to spend a day together and to speak their own language.

The following, and final, day with our partners was spent in school. They attended many different lessons, and couldn't believe the size of the school! It was lovely to finally be able to introduce my partner to my friends, as I had spoken about her to them so much. That night was our last night together before they departed the next day. It was a very emotional goodbye for us all; however many of us are still in touch with our partners and will hopefully see them again in the future.

I would recommend the French Exchange without any doubt! Not only was it a fantastic experience, and has improved my French skills tremendously, but also I have made a friend for life through the trip. A huge thank you goes to Mr Chamberlain and to Margot, our FLA, for organising and accompanying us on the trip.

**Rosie Sowersby, L6E**





# Sport

## U13 & U14 Rugby News

**Success has come at the double for a school with a regional reputation for rugby.**

Both the U13 and U14 squads from Ripon Grammar School have ended their seasons with victory in the White Rose Rugby Series, which saw them playing teams from across Yorkshire.

The U13s accumulated enough points in their local cluster matches to qualify for a finals tournament played at Otley against the best teams from around the region, ending in triumph for the Ripon boys.

Captain Ted Wainwright, 13, of Helmsley, who is a boarder at Ripon Grammar School, said: "The team are all friends with each other and a lot of us play at Ripon Rugby Club too so we know each other really well as players."

The squad, who won the Yorkshire Cup last year, have not lost a single match in two seasons.

For the U14s their 17-12 victory against Brighouse in the final brought home the White Rose trophy for the third time in three years.

Captain James Willis, 14, of Ripon, said: "We had quite a few games early in the season when we played really well and that qualified us for this cup and got us to the final."



"There's a lot of character in our squad and we work really well as a team."

Try scorers in the final were Ted Wainwright, Oliver Bowett and Ben Payette, and joint men of the match were Ted Wainwright and Will Langford.

Coach and head of boys' PE at Ripon Grammar School Mr Garvey said around 50 schools took part in the U14s competition.

"The RFU considered us to be one of the best teams and invited us to face Brighouse in the final. It's fantastic that this team have now won the competition three years in a row."

"It's been a good season for all our teams. Our U12s came third in their regional finals and the U18s were runners-up in the final of the Yorkshire Cup."



***In their prime: White Rose Rugby Series winners, the U13s and U14s squads from Ripon Grammar School***

"I believe the success is down to the focus we put on handling skills. When these boys leave school they don't take the team with them, they can only take what they have as individuals. So we move the ball around a lot to develop their passing skills and their ability to make quick decisions."

## Success for RGS VXers

**Ripon Grammar School is the National Centre of Excellence for the North Yorkshire-born sport of VX.**

Several of our students play in the National League with Ripon's two teams heading up the first division (Vanquish) and the second division (Vortex).

As well as this, Ranjeet Shahi and Max Johnston have both been selected for the National Programme and hope to play in next year's World Cup in America. Old Riponians Hannah Hale, Stephen Laws and Reece Farren are also contenders for a place in the National Squad.

As some of the youth players naturally graduate to the senior squad, it was clear that the youth squad needed strengthening.

With a number of exceptional younger players coming to the attention of the coaches it was decided to establish a Junior Squad under the leadership of Jonathon Cooper.

And so it was that seven RGS students turned up alongside eighteen other hopeful young players at the John Leggott College in Scunthorpe to be put through their paces.

During the day the young players were put through fitness benchmarking tests and assessment drills for the basic skills. Finally, they were put into game situations with the staff looking for leadership, performance under pressure, response to instructions and initiative.

At the end of a long day the players then had to go home and nervously wait to find out if they had done enough to be selected for the England Youth Squad.

Head Coach Paul Hildreth was delighted with the day: "The National Programme has moved onto a very professional footing now and I am very confident about what these players are going to achieve."

Holding these formal trials is another step forward in putting together an impressive infrastructure for the National Programme. I was seriously impressed with the young players we saw today. Just seeing how good some of these youngsters are makes me feel very excited for the future of the sport."

Dominic Lockwood will undertake a fast track Talent ID coaching programme before he attends the next trial later in the year.

Jacob Sharp, Ben Pimley, Freddie Saynor, Joe Willis, Sophie Johnston and Amy Mackenzie were all successful in being selected for the National Programme. Amy and Freddie shone in the sports science fitness tests, coming top in the majority of the tests. Joe Willis, whose honesty and integrity are second to none, was heralded as the epitome of a VX player.

**Mrs Mackenzie**



**Athlete Toby Osman is running for the region after securing the chance to compete at national level twice this season.**

The sporty 14-year-old, of Winksley, near Ripon, only started running competitively on joining Ripon Grammar School but has quickly found himself representing Yorkshire in cross country.

He qualified for a place in the UK U15 championships held in Birmingham, then came in the top 30 in the U14s English championships at Donington Park in Leicestershire.

"I had trials at Harrogate and Craven then got to represent North Yorkshire. I came second in the North of England and that allowed me to compete in the English championships," he explained.

Toby admits he started training seriously only recently, but now trains six days a week as he has set his sights on triathlons.

He has joined Yorkshire and Humberside Academy and is competing for them again next week.

Toby, whose dad also competes in triathlons, added: "I enjoy cycling and swimming as well so triathlon gives me a chance to do all three, although running is my strength."



# Classroom Block : Photographic Club

The RGS site is changing again this year as we eagerly await the opening of the new classroom block in October 2014.

The new classroom block will provide many benefits for students and teachers alike. First of all the new building will reduce the time students walk between lessons, particularly from the language huts near Johnson House to the main body of the school; this will also increase our lesson time. It also means we won't get wet between lessons when it's raining and therefore our books won't get wet either! The classroom block will alleviate the extreme temperatures that we currently endure due to the storage heaters in the huts and will also give us more usable space. The caretakers will be pleased to receive their buckets back too as we look forward to having leak-free roofs! Our teachers who spend much of their time teaching in their huts are also looking forward to moving for the same reasons. At least students can escape the extremities of the huts when the bell rings for the next lesson! From a prefect perspective, it will also make our duties of monitoring form rooms at lunchtimes much easier too.

We have been watching the progress of the site over the last few months and watched the concrete foundations being poured in June. We can't wait to see what it looks like in September.

Matthew Binks L6E & Joseph Foster, 1B



Christina Scullion



Megan Lewis



Christina Scullion



Megan Lewis



Mr McLennan



Mr McLennan

## Careers Interviews 2014

On Wednesday 11th June and Friday 13th June, lower-sixth students were involved in mock interviews in preparation for applications to university or future employment opportunities.

Each student was assigned an interviewer with a background and expertise in a specific area. These included a large team of very willing participants from Ripon Rotary, various businesses and organisations and parents. Sophie Veitch commented, "It was useful for preparing for interviews in the future because we were paired with somebody who was interested in the subject area that we are hoping to study."

Following the interview itself, students were provided with detailed feedback on both their CVs and covering letters, which had been submitted in advance of the interview date, "providing", said Ellie Fielding, "an insight into the world of work and employment."

Heather Laws felt that "It was useful to have feedback that is unbiased and from somebody that you didn't know", allowing the student to benefit in the knowledge that it was based entirely on a first encounter with the interviewer and the impressions that the individual gave.

Sophie Veitch felt that this "was useful in preparing us for interviews in the future" because of the realistic interview scenarios. Lucy Chapman thought it "enabled students to improve their interview techniques" and it was generally felt that it had helped students to refine their communications skills and would ultimately enhance their applications for their chosen route after sixth form education.

Lauren Langham, L6D

## RGS Philosophy Society

If you venture to hut 5 on a Monday night you will find a group of Ripon Grammar School students of all ages, accompanied by Mr Pepper, discussing philosophical concepts and issues ranging from free will and determinism to questions such as "do schools kill creativity?"



A typical meeting begins with a presentation from Mr Pepper on a certain topic followed by discussion and debate between the students. The society has allowed students studying religious studies to widen their knowledge on some aspects of the syllabus whilst allowing other students to learn and discuss new theories and concepts. Leon Hickingbotham, a keen lower-sixth scientist, described the society as "eye opening" and "thoroughly enjoyable". The society was lucky enough to have a visit from Professor Tom Stoneham, head of philosophy at York University; this provided a unique perspective on life after death and an insight into philosophy at degree level.

It is clear that the society has been a huge success with students of all ages attending and attempting to answer some of life's toughest questions. However we still haven't decided between chicken and egg!

Bently Briggs, L6B

## Diary dates - Autumn term 2014

Mon, 1 September	School closed for staff training
Tues, 2 September	School opens for Autumn term
Mon, 8 September	Parents' Association meeting
Wed, 10 September	Upper School induction evening 5.30pm
Fri, 19 September	Tea for first form parents 4.15pm
Fri, 26 September	Tea for sixth form parents 4.15pm Cheese & Wine evening for new parents 7pm
Tues, 30 September	School photographs
Tues, 7 October	Parents' Association AGM 7pm
Fri, 17 October	PA Murder Mystery Evening 7pm
w/c 20 October	Charity Week
Friday, 24 October	School closes for half term
Please see the full school calendar for 2014-2015 on our website <a href="http://www.ripongrammar.co.uk">www.ripongrammar.co.uk</a>	

## 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)