



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Engineering Specialism within a Grammar School



Dear Parents,

June 2014

The Extension of Access to the Internet in School and Responsible Internet Use

The school offers students supervised internet access in the Library and in the computer rooms, enabling them to extend their learning in lessons and in private study. I would like to take this opportunity to describe the ways in which we are seeking to ensure that students' use of the internet in school is safe and educationally worthwhile.

We are conscious of the concerns which you may have about the safe use of the internet. Accordingly, the school's internet access is through a broadband link to an 'Internet Service Provider' [ISP] provided by IFL. The ISP provides a filtered service which seeks to block access to material of an unsuitable nature. In addition, there is direct staff supervision of students both in lessons in the computer rooms and also during directed research projects in the library. There is also a staff presence during private study and at lunch times, though we cannot guarantee that this will provide the same degree of direct supervision as is available in lessons.

Although internet use is supervised in our school, there are limits to the extent of our supervision. Parents will wish to be aware that it is possible that, despite our efforts, some students may encounter or seek to find ways to gain access to material which is inaccurate, defamatory, illegal or potentially offensive to others. If this were to happen we would respond appropriately in accordance with our pastoral and disciplinary procedures.

In school, teachers will guide students towards appropriate materials. However, we recognise that away from school parents and guardians are responsible for establishing the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. It is our hope that we can work together to ensure that access to the internet can be both safe and educationally worthwhile.

Accordingly, in common with most other secondary schools, we feel that it is important for there to be an agreement with parents and students about the responsible use of the internet and would ask you to give permission for your child to use the internet in school in an appropriate way. Such an overt agreement is important because it brings home to the students the shared sense of common purpose and could be useful in bringing a resolution to the rare cases where a student might make inappropriate use of the internet. We would ask parents and students to read the enclosed summary of the protocols for 'Responsible Internet Use' as they are explained to students in the school and complete the enclosed Internet Permission Form. Your signature and the signature of your son or daughter would indicate your approval, and their acceptance, of the protocols for responsible use of ICT and the internet in school.

If you do not wish your son or daughter to use the internet in school we will respect your decision not to apply for access. In such, we hope, rare cases alternative activities would be provided for the students.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of our approach to internet use please contact Mr Ben Hampshire [ICT Systems Manager]. I hope that the information in this letter is helpful.

Yours sincerely

M L Pearman
Headmaster

Headmaster: Martin Pearman, MA(Oxon), CChem, FRSC

Address: Clothierholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG Telephone: (01765) 602647 Facsimile: (01765) 606388

Email: admin@ripongrammar.co.uk Website: www.ripongrammar.co.uk

