

RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL PROSPECTUS BOARDING



WELCOME TO RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL IS AN OUTSTANDING SELECTIVE CO-EDUCATIONAL STATE SCHOOL WITH BOARDING ACCOMMODATION FOR UP TO 85 PUPILS, MAKING US UNIQUE IN YORKSHIRE AND ONE OF A SMALL, SELECT GROUP OF SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY. SET IN THE BEAUTIFUL CATHEDRAL CITY OF THE YORKSHIRE DALES, RGS HAS BEEN EDUCATING CHILDREN FROM NORTH YORKSHIRE AND BEYOND FOR MORE THAN 450 YEARS.

North Yorkshire's beautiful landscape is world class, with much of the Yorkshire Dales and Moors National Parks lying within our region. North Yorkshire also offers a high quality of life and, being just a short distance from the cosmopolitan spa town of Harrogate and magnificent ancient city of York, Ripon is one of the most historic centres in the county.

With a population of just 16,000, Ripon is one of the smallest cities in England, with a central market place and the ancient, vibrant Ripon Cathedral, which was founded more than 1,300 years ago. Monasteries have stood in the area since the 7th century, the most famous of which, Fountains Abbey, part of Studley Royal Water Garden, and Yorkshire's only World Heritage Site, is just two miles from Ripon Grammar School.

The bustling city centre offers a wide variety of shops, coffee shops, supermarkets, restaurants and hotels, with plenty of green city spaces. Ripon Spa Gardens, with its Victorian bandstand, overlooked by Ripon's Spa Hotel, is close to Ripon Grammar School and three museums are within walking distance. The Ripon Hornblower's ancient ceremony of 'setting the watch' has been performed every evening without fail for 1,128 years on the market square - the longest unbroken daily ceremony in the world!

Ripon is surrounded by walking routes and cycle ways and has regular bus services to Harrogate, York, Northallerton and Leeds.





BOARDING



BOARDING AT RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

WE PROVIDE OUR BOARDERS WITH A REAL HOME, WHERE THEY FEEL SAFE AND SECURE.

Ripon Grammar School is Yorkshire's only state-run boarding school. The school is a member of the State Boarding Schools' Association and our Headmaster, Mr Pearman, serves on the national committee of the SBSA.

State boarding schools provide high quality boarding at the lowest possible cost and, as such, are becoming increasingly popular. Education at Ripon Grammar School is free; families only pay the cost of boarding, with fees considerably lower than those of independent boarding schools. The combination of the excellent state-funded education and a stable boarding community enables pupils to make the most of their talents and abilities.

We offer warm and comfortable accommodation for up to 70 girls and boys on either a weekly or termly basis. Our two boarding houses are located in 23 acres of beautiful grounds. School House for boys and Johnson House for girls are well staffed with a mixture of teaching and non-teaching colleagues, working together to promote and safeguard the welfare of our boarders in an atmosphere of sensitivity to individual needs.

We do everything possible to ensure children enjoy their time boarding at Ripon Grammar School and believe we have an impressive track record of providing excellent pastoral care within an outstanding academic environment.

We are proud of our past pupils' personal and career successes, well-documented on the Old Riponian alumni section of our school website, which includes examples of experiences and lasting memories of boarding at Ripon Grammar.



GIRLS' BOARDING IN JOHNSON HOUSE

Following plans to expand girls' boarding provision to meet increased demand, Johnson House will cater for up to 45 girls. A £1.2m extension, providing a further 14 places and additional staff accommodation for September 2015, also provides single rooms for sixth form girls.

Accommodation for younger pupils, in either twin rooms or cleverly designed rooms of four beds, offers each girl individual space with their own furniture, study area and walls to personalise.

Sixth form girls have twin occupancy study-bedrooms, or can opt for a single room.

There are washbasins in each room with toilets and a shower or bathroom nearby. Laundry is done for the students.

Downstairs there is a well-equipped lounge with all the comforts of home. The prep room provides a dedicated place for homework and study. Boarders have access to computers in the house, some with internet access.

BOYS' BOARDING IN SCHOOL HOUSE

School House caters for up to 40 boys with younger boarders accommodated in modern dormitories, with approximately four pupils in each room. Each pupil has his own furniture and can personalise his area. Sixth form students have access to single rooms with a study area. There are numerous showers and washrooms close to all the accommodation.

School House is part of the main school building and boys are able to take advantage of the excellent school library and computer suite.



OFSTED BOARDING INSPECTION

RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL'S BOARDING PROVISION WAS INSPECTED BY OFSTED IN SUMMER 2014. OF THE FOUR CATEGORIES REPORTED ON, TWO WERE 'OUTSTANDING' AND TWO 'GOOD'. OUTCOMES FOR BOARDERS AND LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT WERE BOTH GRADED 'OUTSTANDING' AND BOARDERS' SAFETY AND QUALITY OF BOARDING PROVISION AND CARE WERE BOTH GRADED 'GOOD'.

Inspectors were impressed with overall leadership of the boarding provision, both in School and Johnson House. The policies and approaches are under constant review with changes made where necessary. Outcomes for boarders are outstanding - reflected in outstanding outcomes in A level and GCSE examinations. Boarders also develop a strong sense of independence and excellent social skills, preparing them well for life beyond school.

You can download the full inspection report on the school website, but we've also listed a few highlights of direct quotes from Ofsted:

"The leadership and management of boarding is excellent".

"Boarding is providing significant benefits to the boys and girls who reside at the school. They become more independent, they develop social skills and they gain academically".

"During their time at the school, boarders become markedly more confident and self-reliant. The benefit of this is reflected in the significantly better examination results achieved by boarders in comparison to day students".

"Boarders thoroughly enjoy their residential experience. They like having friends around them and the range of activities available in their leisure time. The tutoring system and group meetings help them to have an effective say in how care may be improved".

"Outcomes for boarders are outstanding. Boarders thoroughly enjoy living at the school and all were keen to express the difference boarding made to their lives. They have a deep appreciation of the opportunities boarding gives them, for example, the ready access to superb sporting and cultural facilities. Many

have developed new skills and aptitudes or built on existing ones. Additionally, boarders are keen to take part in activities outside the school. They have free time to go into the nearby town, as well as participating in more structured outings, for example, to local theatres".

"Boarders enjoy extremely positive relationships with staff and with each other. For much of the time they require very little direct supervision and motivate themselves to carry out their daily routines. Boarders are tolerant of each other and show great consideration for their needs. They respect and celebrate the diversity within the boarding group, enjoying the opportunity to learn about different languages and cultures. They also identify strongly with the school in general and the boarding community in particular. This is demonstrated in recorded comments made by boarders who have left the school, such as: '... leaving here was like leaving your family...my time here has had a massive impact on me... you've literally changed my life for the better...' Boarders' sense of pride is reflected in their clear desire to 'put something back' into the community, for example, by undertaking the role of prefect".

"Boarders develop self-discipline and a clear vision of what they want to achieve in their school career. For example, they undertake set studies within boarding time largely without the need for staff oversight. One boarder said, 'I definitely prefer boarding to being at home - I don't have to worry about homework.'

"Boarders are in exceptionally good health, and have an extremely good awareness of what makes for a healthy lifestyle. As a result they are able to make sensible choices, for example, in following a balanced and nutritious diet".



THE BOARDING DAY

8.00am - A typical day starts with breakfast. Other than sixth formers, pupils do not return to the boarding house during the day, ensuring that school and 'home' are separate in the same way as they are for day pupils.

8.50am - Registration in the main school with form groups followed by lesson timetable including morning break and lunch spent with day pupils in the main school buildings.

3.55pm - Boarders register in their boarding house when lessons finish. They can choose from the snack counter, then are free to watch TV or play computer games in the boarders' lounges, go running or join one of the school's many sporting clubs. There are telephones in the houses for boarders to keep in contact with family and friends. Boarders can also use their own mobile phones and email.

6.00pm - Tea is served by the boarding houses' dedicated catering teams, each led by a qualified chef. Menus are well planned in conjunction with pupils, with a number of choices available including a vegetarian option. Pupils help with cleaning up after tea on a rota basis.

6.45pm - Prep in the boarding house study rooms, library or in boarders' own rooms.

8.00pm - Pupils have exclusive use of school sports facilities and are able to join in a wide range of activities organised by house parents, as outlined below.



ACTIVITIES AND SPORT



ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS FACILITIES

BOARDERS AT RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL ENJOY FREE TIME IN THE EVENINGS AND AT WEEKENDS, WHEN THERE ARE AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE UP NEW CHALLENGES, BEGIN LIFELONG HOBBIES AND DEVELOP SKILLS TO A HIGH LEVEL. IT'S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR MANY STUDENTS TO MAKE NEW AND LASTING FRIENDSHIPS THROUGH COMMON INTERESTS.

After the school day has finished, students can take part in table tennis, badminton, crafts, football, yoga and, one night a week, enjoy exclusive use of the school's on-site pool. Boarders have access to a wide range of other sporting activities too, such as rugby, hockey, netball and, in summer, tennis, athletics, cricket and rounders.

As well as its own swimming pool, the school has a new, six badminton court-size sports hall complete with a climbing wall and fitness suite. Within its 23 acres, the school has very attractive and extensive playing fields, including a full size rugby pitch, cricket square, Astroturf pitch and four tennis courts.

Pupils represent the school in local, regional and national competitions and many of our students have been selected to represent their sport at county level.

At weekends there are opportunities for visits to the theatre, cinema, local fireworks displays, ice skating, bowling, shopping trips and a whole host of local attractions.

In addition, all boarders have access to the school's wide range of extra-curricular activities including music and drama, as outlined below.

MUSIC

The music department runs regular practices and supports a wide range of music groups catering for many styles and abilities:

- Choirs
- Ensembles
- Big Band
- Orchestra
- Brass Band

- Lower School Big Band
- Jazz Group
- Sax Ensemble
- Percussion Ensemble

The school regularly hosts and enters local and national music competitions and festivals such as Harrogate Festival, National Festival of Music for Youth, The Battle of the Bands, Music Awards Evening and Harrogate International Youth Festival.

DRAMA

Drama enjoys a high profile in school with events taking place throughout the year in which boarders play their part. Senior pupils take part in the annual house drama competition, directing and producing their own short plays.

The junior drama club, which meets most Monday evenings for workshop activities and improvisations, puts on a major production in the summer term. Recent productions have included The Wizard of Oz, The Jungle Book, The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe and Alice in Wonderland.

The annual school production is the highlight of the drama year. Students and staff work together for months to present top quality theatrical performances such as Murder on the Nile, Return to the Forbidden Planet, Romeo and Juliet and Les Miserables.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN RGS BOARDER

SECOND FORM BOY

“Every day in the boarding house we have lots of extremely enjoyable activities and games, like after school clubs, playing outside with friends, Xbox games, watching TV... the list is endless and we never get sick or tired of it. Boarding is easy, welcoming and great fun! You’re two seconds away from school, so there is no stress. When we get up at 7:30am we shower and, when the breakfast bell goes at 7:55am, we go downstairs and get breakfast. The food is delicious as we have a selection of food to choose from, cereal, toast, cooked breakfast, yoghurt and more. Then we get back into the boarding house to register at 3.55pm when we get a snack, from delicate patisserie to savoury rolls, it’s fantastic. Next part of boarding is 4pm-6pm. This period of time is called ‘free time’. We can do anything we want in this time, play outside sport, go into town, meet friends and go to the games room. The bell for tea goes at 5:55pm. We finish at 6:30pm and after tea the juniors (first to third form) go straight to prep to do homework, finishing at 8:00pm. After prep we have an activity for one hour, on Monday we have this with the girls, Tuesday we have a social night with the girls, Wednesday we do either dodgeball or football and many other sports, Thursday we have water polo. After the activity we have supper, chill out and get ready for bed. This is just ONE week of boarding at Ripon Grammar School. Boarding at Ripon Grammar School is great, welcoming and a place of comfort.”

UPPER SIXTH BOY

“Each day starts with a bell at 7:30am followed by a house parent knocking on your door to ensure you are awake. We then have 25 minutes to get ready before a second bell at 7:55am informs us it’s time for breakfast. The whole boarding house then goes to the dining room where a selection of cooked breakfast and cereals has been prepared. In the sixth form you are allowed to go back to your room as soon as you finish breakfast, which gives plenty of time to get to form for 8:45am.

After school at 4pm we go to the dining hall for a tasty snack baked that day and to register with the house parent on duty. From 4pm-6pm we have free time to use as we wish, an excellent opportunity to go into town and meet with friends.

Dinner is at 6pm with a bell at 5pm so we don’t miss it. There is a rota for meals, with suggestions from us playing a large role in what meals we are given. At 6.30pm we have prep with the option to work in our rooms or in the school library if we require books for research or wish to speak with the duty staff about our homework. From 8pm onwards we have free time, which we can spend around the house in the games or TV room we share with the juniors, or in the sixth form common room. At 11pm we return to our rooms with lights out at 11.30pm.”

FIFTH YEAR GIRL

“Boarding allows you to work according to a routine, which is great for keeping organised. We are woken up firstly by a bell, followed by a member of staff, and must be downstairs for breakfast in school uniform for 8am. There is a wide range of food available, ranging from toast and cereal to a full English breakfast, and we choose what we prefer. After breakfast we continue getting ready for school, and then start the school day.

At the end of the school day we return to the boarding house to register. There are usually freshly baked snacks for us, and drinks. From 4pm-6pm we are free to do what we like. Often we choose to unwind on the sofas and watch TV or put a film on, but sometimes we go into town for a coffee or to shop and in summer we can sit and talk on the field. Tea is at 6pm and lasts for half an hour. We all eat together and there are two options available each night.

After tea is our time to do prep. First to third form students are supervised in the prep room during this time but the rest of us work in our dorms. At 8pm the younger girls participate in a daily activity, but normally the older ones have to work for a bit longer. We all have different bedtimes depending on our age, which tends to work pretty well.

Boarding gives confidence and independence, and there is such a fantastic sense of belonging and community in the house. For me, deciding to board has been the best decision I’ve ever made, and is something that I would recommend to everyone.”



APPLYING FOR A BOARDING PLACE AT RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Main school admissions are managed by North Yorkshire County Council's school admissions team with sixth form admissions managed directly by the school.

Students wishing to join the main school sit entrance tests, managed by NYCC's school admissions team. Children within catchment generally take the tests at their primary school, whilst children outside the catchment area sit tests at a central local venue on two days.

This process is under review. Ripon Grammar School is not currently directly involved in these tests.

For more information, please visit NYCC's website.

OPEN EVENING FOR PROSPECTIVE FIRST FORM STUDENTS

The school hosts an open evening for prospective students when they are in Year 5 of primary school. This is an opportunity for families to tour the school, meet staff and speak to current students.

It is very helpful for families to attend the organised open evening, usually in June (please visit our website for further information). You can download the School Prospectus on our website.

Tours of the school can be arranged on alternative dates for those who live overseas, service families and for those interested in boarding. Please contact the lower school office by e-mail at: lowerschool@ripongrammar.co.uk for details of the proposed, alternative dates for school tours if you are unable to attend the open evening.

Applications for boarding and the sixth form are managed by the school. If you are interested in applying, please visit those pages within the Admissions section of the website.

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

A sixth form open evening is held annually, usually in January. Please check the school website for further details. We also publish a Sixth Form Prospectus and if you are interested in taking up a boarding place in the sixth form, please contact the school to arrange a tour of the boarding houses. Requirements for entry into the sixth form are outlined below and are explained in greater detail in the sixth form prospectus and on the school website.

School Admissions Team
Jesmond House, 31/33 Victoria Avenue, Harrogate HG1 5QE

Telephone: 01609 533679 E-mail: schooladmissions@northyorks.gov.uk

Please refer to North Yorkshire County Council admissions documents for more detailed information regarding the admissions process.



ADDITIONAL SIXTH FORM REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Ripon Grammar School sixth form aims to provide a challenging and stimulating environment in which each student is encouraged and supported by a team of form tutors led by the head of sixth form and deputy head of sixth form. They are supported by additional staff, including our personal development and curriculum co-ordinator, so that students reach their full potential, both academically and as a well-rounded young adult.

Please read the Sixth Form Prospectus for more detailed information on entry to the sixth form.

Students board weekly (Monday-Friday) or termly, staying at school at weekends.

For more information on boarding at Ripon Grammar School, please visit the dedicated section on boarding on the school website or please contact the school – full contact details are overleaf.

WE HOPE YOU WILL BE JOINING US VERY SOON!



School website: [www.ripongrammar.co.uk/boarding and
www.ripongrammar.co.uk/admissions/boarding-admissions](http://www.ripongrammar.co.uk/boarding-and-wwww.ripongrammar.co.uk/admissions/boarding-admissions)

North Yorkshire County Council:
www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/26479/Selective-school-admissions

State Boarding Schools' Association: www.sbsa.org.uk

Boarding Schools' Association: www.boarding.org.uk

Ofsted: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted

Ripon Grammar School:

For further information please contact: Miss M J Murray - Deputy Head

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