



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

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To all parents of students in First Form (Year 7)

Thursday 17th May, 2018

Dear Parents,

Visit to Richmond and Middleham castles – Monday 11th June – (cost: £5 via ParentPay)

The History Department have organised a day visit to Richmond Castle and Middleham Castle for all pupils in the First Year. This visit will allow pupils to experience two of the best-preserved historic structures in England and complement their study of how the changing nature of castle design sheds light on the changing nature of English history itself.

Both castles are cared for by English Heritage and educational visits of this nature to their sites are free-of-charge. The trip cost therefore simply covers coach travel between the venues throughout the day. To secure your child a place on the trip and ensure it goes ahead as planned, **please pay the £5 online via the ParentPay website**. The site will also allow you to confirm permission for them to attend. The deadline for payment is **Monday 4th June**.

The morning will be spent at Richmond Castle, a fantastic example of an early, Norman-era stone keep castle. Middleham, by contrast, reached the height of its status and development in a later era, during the time of the 'War of the Roses' and the reign of its most famous owner, King Richard III. Time at the castles will give pupils opportunity to understand better the original purpose, design and changing history of both locations. Insights derived from the visit will then be developed in history lessons back in the classroom, with all pupils ultimately undertaking their own castle design from a particular era of English history.

Students will not have to wear school uniform but they should ensure they dress comfortably, with sensible footwear essential given the uneven surfaces underfoot within the castles. They should prepare for the kind of warm, wet or mixed weather typical of the great British summer. The trip is intended to occur entirely within normal school hours, meaning that travel arrangements to and from school should not need to be altered.

If time and good behaviour allow, we have made space within our itinerary for a short visit to the Brymor Ice Cream parlour, which is located conveniently on our route back to school in the mid-afternoon. If pupils would like the option of buying a 'single scoop' (cone or container) of ice cream at Brymor, they should **bring £2.30** with them in cash. All pupils will also need to **bring a packed lunch** to eat earlier in the day and adequate drinking water.

If you have any concerns about financing this trip, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Hoskins, Head of Lower School. Thank you for your support in preparing for what I am certain will be a worthwhile and memorable visit.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Bruce (History Department)

Headmaster: Mr. Jonathan M. Webb, MA (Cantab).

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