



9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents,

This year all Year 11 students will have important decisions to make about their futures. We will be encouraging them to think carefully about their options this term so that they can make well-informed, realistic decisions in the Spring term.

School has arranged for all Year 11 students to meet with a professional and experienced Careers Adviser, Mrs Ann Ritchie, who will provide impartial careers guidance, advice and information on a range of academic courses, careers and opportunities. As Mrs Ritchie also works in another school, appointments will be held on a virtual basis, with students having their meetings as usual within school.

**She will help your son or daughter to:**

- consider all their options including sixth form, college, apprenticeships, traineeships and university
- consider suitable qualifications which can be NVQs and other work based qualifications, T Levels, BTECs, A levels, Applied A levels, Foundation Degrees, HNDs and Degrees
- understand the entry requirements for courses and apprenticeships
- work out what they want to do if they aren't yet sure
- have the confidence to achieve their goals in life
- take control of their future plans and turn their ideas into reality
- understand that ideas can change and develop as they get older, gain more qualifications and experience

In their appointment with the Careers Adviser, students will be supported to make a decision for themselves and to create a realistic plan of action relating to their career ideas. We recognise that parents are keen to be involved in this process and the attached Careers Information Sheet is intended as a resource for both Year 11 students and their parents to refer to at home.

The programme of careers appointments will take place over the Autumn and early Spring terms and every student will be allocated an individual 40 minute interview, which will be notified to your son or daughter.

Tutors and the Careers Department will also be working with form groups during tutorial time to ensure that students understand how to research the courses and careers options available to them, using our excellent on-line resources to explore career areas. Students will also learn how to make informed career decisions in relation to labour market information.

Students will also have an opportunity to talk to Year 12 and 13 students about what it is like to study particular A levels at RGS. In normal circumstances, this is undertaken within an A Level Fair, but current restrictions may mean that this has to also be organised as a virtual event and this will be confirmed at a later date in the term.

In addition Year 11 students would normally participate in an Exploring Pathways and Apprenticeships event in February, providing an opportunity to learn about the different career and study routes available. Arrangements are currently being reviewed for how this will be provided, details to follow.

Students are encouraged to visit the Careers Department and to use the lunchtime 'drop-ins' to chat about options and career plans, in addition to browsing the many resources which we have available. Students can of course also contact an external careers adviser through the National Careers Service, for which there is a link on our website:  
<http://www.ripongrammar.co.uk/academic/careers>

We also hope that you will be able to attend the Virtual Careers and Higher Education Evening on 3rd March, when representatives from around 60 organisations and universities will be present and able to offer careers information and guidance. Details of this will be sent out to all parents nearer to the time.

Should there be any concerns about achieving the requirements for entry to Ripon Grammar School Sixth Form, it is very important for students to have a suitable back-up plan in place. In order to keep their options open, students can apply to more than one school or college and decide where to take up a place once their GCSE results are known, and Mrs Ritchie will be assisting students with their plans during their individual guidance appointments.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Jill Locke

Head of Careers

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