



Re-founded 1555

# Ripon Grammar School

*Helping shape the future since 1555*



21 December 2017

Dear Parents

If you were fortunate to attend our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in Ripon Cathedral this Monday, you will no doubt have experienced the beauty of such a remarkable setting and perhaps even more the extraordinary beauty of the choral singing of Ripon Grammar School. Thank you to all those involved, either conducting, singing, playing or reading, who made that occasion so memorable. Particular thanks go to Mr Seymour, our Director of Music, who not only brought together the Christmas Concert last week but who also, in such a short space of time, enabled such a programme of high quality music to be performed.

Inevitably the thoughts of our students have turned this week in anticipation of Christmas. As I said in assembly several weeks ago, waiting is an inevitable part of the human condition and that we should often accept waiting with humility and calmness. We live our lives conscious of the past, mindful of the present and hopeful for the future: what has gone, what is, and what is to come. Without the ability to wait and anticipate what is to come, we would end up living in a perpetual present. That is, for many, the significance of this time of year and why we often make our resolutions at New Year. Not for nothing did Scrooge witness his spiritual regeneration at Christmas!

And so we reflect on the term just gone. There have been many successes and achievements - too many to list here, but hopefully you will capture a flavour of that success in reading the latest edition of RGS News. Hopefully all our students will reflect personally on their term - what went well and what they could have done better, not just academically but also socially and in terms of taking advantage of all the opportunities available.

Thank you once again for the generous support of the RGS Parents' Association and for their help this past term. Over Christmas a new projector and screen will be installed in the hall. In addition support has led to new fencing and screening around the science block, storage bins in the Design Technology department, a new 3D printer, kit for various sports teams, a drying rack for the art department, canvas mounts for photographs of the history department trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau and last but not least a contribution towards membership of the National Schools Equestrian Association for our small but successful RGS riding club!

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

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

Email: [admin@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:admin@ripongrammar.co.uk) Website: [www.ripongrammar.co.uk](http://www.ripongrammar.co.uk)





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You may also be aware that some weeks back the Sixth Form Centre was flooded by a burst pipe. Thankfully refurbishment is now at an end and it has new carpets, some redecoration, improved lighting and furniture. Thank you for the patience shown by the Sixth Form and teaching staff.

We also look forwards to next term. Inevitably for many students it might be focused on mock examinations looming in January, or UCAS applications and the inevitable choices of which university or career path to take. For the School, planning for the new 3G pitch is now looking at the more specific requirements. At some point in the New Year, contractors will begin their work on this facility which will support both rugby and football and a re-levelled, drained and positioned 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby pitch. The facility will be in much use by the School but also has scope to be used as a community facility.

In terms of staffing we are very pleased to welcome Mrs Gallagher back into the Biology Department after her maternity leave, and our thanks go to Mrs Duggleby for covering superbly in her absence.

We have also been looking at the overall security of the school site with a view to making some incremental improvements in 2018. There are no hard details to report at present but we are looking at the access points to the RGS site and its buildings. In the first instance, from January, all staff working at RGS will wear security badges and lanyards. Other than parents' evenings and major productions, may I therefore use this opportunity to remind parents that they should always sign-in at reception and receive a visitor badge and lanyard before entering any school building. Students will be reminded of the protocols associated with this in January and what to do if they spot someone without an appropriate security lanyard.

Finally we have much to look forward to next year in terms of events. Over Christmas, on the 30<sup>th</sup> December, we have the Old Riponian's re-union with sporting clashes involving football, netball and hockey. We will also be hosting the RGSPA evening with 'Mr Yorkshire', Sir Gary Verity, on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February which I hope will be well attended. We also have the Sixth Form Open Evening on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and a great array of trips, parents' evenings and sports fixtures; details of all these are available on the School website under the Parents' section.

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At the end of term we have the School's major production of *Billy Elliot* for which rehearsals are well under way; this promises to be a superb performance and tickets will be on sale shortly.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

**Jonathan M Webb**  
Headmaster

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