



Re-founded 1555

# Ripon Grammar School

*Helping shape the future since 1555*



21 December 2017

## Parents of Lower 6<sup>th</sup> Form students

Dear Parent,

I am just writing, as we reach the end of a very long term, to keep you up to date with 6<sup>th</sup> form events and programmes.

I must start by saying how delighted we are with the way in which our Lower 6<sup>th</sup> have settled into school life this year. There is a real focus and drive to this year group which bodes very well for their success in the months to come, as well as a wonderful commitment to the community around them, and many of our students have been actively demonstrating the leadership qualities that are so important to the school as a whole.

By now I hope that you have been able to access the **December report** for your son or daughter through eportal, and which provides you with the third tracking point this year (after the October reports and the November Parents' Evening). Again, these reports indicate some terrific progress amongst our Lower 6<sup>th</sup> students, and a very high standard of engagement and performance. The final set of reports for the year will be published around half term next term, and will offer full written comments alongside the grades, which will allow the students to make any final adjustments ahead of their AS Level examinations in the summer. We will also use the **mock examinations** in the second week of next term to help gauge and identify areas needing work in their revision. I know that the students will prepare themselves well for these mock examinations, whilst also keeping them firmly in perspective.

I should also mention that we have now formally embarked upon our **Post-School Choices programme** with our Lower 6<sup>th</sup> students. As you may be aware, the Lower 6<sup>th</sup> have already received a range of initial presentations through our Enrichment sessions, including from Sheffield and St Andrews Universities, as well as from local organisations offering volunteering opportunities, and our programme of Lower 6<sup>th</sup> Mock Interviews. Our focus at this point is on giving our students as much information as possible about the huge range of exciting options and opportunities open to them beyond school, whether through further study, gap years or through routes into employment, before we support them in the process of identifying which are the right choices and decisions for them.

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In this spirit, yesterday afternoon our students had the opportunity to speak with a wide range of former RGS students who have gone on to undertake a myriad of different courses, routes and choices beyond school, and to seek their advice and experience for themselves. I hope that they found this experience thought-provoking and useful, and I know that our former students are always very happy to continue to share advice and support online should it be requested.

We have also now spoken in more detail about some of the university and non-university options available, and begun to gauge interest in various career routes and courses to ensure that we are able to provide targeted advice as required. Students will receive notes from these sessions to their school email accounts, and they know that they can come to speak to their tutors, 6<sup>th</sup> form team and Careers staff at any time to discuss their options in further detail.

Enrichment sessions over the next two terms will continue to provide information sessions from a range of different Higher Education, training and industry advisers, including **Scottish Universities** and **Gap Year** providers, as well as our annual sessions on **Medicine, Veterinary, Oxbridge, Law** and **teacher training** applications, and there are a number of further events scheduled to offer opportunities for students and parents to explore options:

On **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January** we will host an **Apprenticeship Fair** to allow our 5<sup>th</sup> year and 6<sup>th</sup> form students to learn more about routes directly into industry and employment.

Our **Careers Evening** on the evening of **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March** will offer the opportunity for students and parents to speak with representatives from a wide variety of employers, universities and training providers in the field of **STEM** and **sport** related Careers.

On the morning of **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March** we will host the **Students' World Roadshow** for 6<sup>th</sup> form students to learn more about study across the world.

There is also an information evening in **March** for parents and students to learn more about **Oxbridge** applications (dates to follow.)

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On **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April** we will hold our annual **Higher Education Evening** for students and parents to learn more about applying to university and about student finance.

We also have our **Lower 6<sup>th</sup> Work Experience week** in the week commencing the **9<sup>th</sup> July**, which gives students an invaluable opportunity to enrich their experience and their personal statements ahead of applications to university or employment. We would encourage any students who have not yet done so to contact prospective placements as a matter of urgency, and to see Mr Walker as soon as possible if they have any problems or queries.

Once students return from their examination study leave in the summer term, we will take the year group as a whole to the **UCAS convention** in Leeds where they will be able to speak with representatives from all British universities, as well as a range of other training providers and international universities. We will also take the year group to the **Newcastle and Northumbria Open Day** where they will be able to experience two major city universities at first hand. Our **Oxbridge residential** trip will allow students who wish to visit Oxford and Cambridge university open days and to talk to staff and students. We will also provide full and thorough **personal statement** and **university application** workshops for students applying to university, as well as individual planning focus for those taking gap years or routes into apprenticeship or employment, and mock interview practice for anyone called to interviews for university entrance or apprenticeships.

Please be assured that we will guide our Lower 6<sup>th</sup> students very carefully, and as individuals, through the process of establishing their plans and routes beyond school over the next 18 months, and that we will keep parents fully informed and involved in this process.

Finally, on behalf of the 6<sup>th</sup> form team, may I wish you and your families a restful and happy Christmas holiday, and a peaceful New Year.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr T Fell**  
**Head of Sixth Form**

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