



Re-founded 1555

# Ripon Grammar School

*Helping shape the future since 1555*



23 November 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

## Gideons International

At Ripon Grammar School we value the opportunity to gather as a community on a regular basis through whole-school and year assemblies. These take place at the beginning of the day and are an important part of the life of the school where students assemble and spend time with other year groups as we listen to recorded or live music, a reading and a thought for the day.

Our assemblies take a variety of forms and encompass religious and non-religious thoughts. We are pleased that students are informed of ideas from a number of religions and cultures and are presented with ideas which offer a range of realistic views of our society and the wider world in general.

As part of our assembly programme we invite representatives from a variety of organisations to speak to the students. As part of this programme, representatives from Gideons International usually come into school to deliver an assembly to our First Year students. This has always been an annual event and the Gideons have been coming to RGS for over twenty years. The representatives who visit our school are members of the local community and have developed a long-standing relationship with us. The Gideons do present a particular view of religion to the students, in the same way as members of staff and representatives of other religious organisations express their views. As a part of this assembly, the Gideons make a gift of a book of the New Testament to the students.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we are not able to hold our usual assembly with Gideons International this year, but they have kindly supplied us with books of the New Testament for our First Year students and a video which conveys the message they would normally deliver within the assembly. **It is our intention to show this video next Monday, 30 November, in form time, and offer the students their gift of the New Testament.**

To hear a variety of viewpoints is an important part of the normal religious education experience and school life in general. We believe it is important to invite relevant outside speakers to participate in our assemblies as it is our belief that students have the ability to make decisions about faith for themselves and that we should provide a variety of stimuli. However, if you would prefer your child not to be involved in this particular form time activity, please contact Miss Hoskins at School.

Yours sincerely

**Miss A M Hoskins**  
**Head of Year 7**

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