



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



17 December 2020

Dear Students, Parents, Staff and Governors

Perhaps we have become a little fatigued of late with the word 'unprecedented', but this has indeed been a long and unprecedented term! I am delighted that education has not been disrupted quite as adversely as we might have feared at the start of September. The number of infections recorded within the school has been very low and I do hope this will continue into the New Year.

Despite the fact that many of our enriching co-curricular activities have been curtailed, the January edition of RGS News will no doubt keep you up to date with what has been going on and the many tremendous things our students continue to achieve. This final week has been a busy one with Christmas lunches yesterday and today, a live performance beamed into classrooms of 'A Christmas Carol' for the Year 10s, as well as the viewing of our Virtual Christmas Carol Concert which was recorded in Holy Trinity Church, Ripon, last week. Thank you to Mr Barker and Mrs Morpeth for all their work in the production, which can be watched here:

<http://www.ripongrammar.co.uk/news/video-rgs-christmas-carol-concert-2020-726/>

On a more mundane note, please can I remind all members of the RGS community that any positive **Covid cases up to Wednesday 23 December** should be reported through to school in the usual way via admin@ripongrammar.com. This will allow us to support the local health protection team in identifying anybody who may have been in school this week who may be exposed to infection. After Wednesday, any cases should be reported to NHS 119. [A handy reminder of what to do is included below].

I will be writing a more detailed New Year's message to you all to update you on school news, but in the meantime I would like to thank all the staff at Ripon Grammar School for their hard work, generous spirit and dedication to keeping education going this term. I would also like to thank all the students in all years who have been tremendous this term, working hard on their studies, sticking to the Covid rules, and taking matters fully and cheerfully in their stride. They have been exemplary.

Finally may I wish all staff, students, parents and governors a very Happy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to welcoming all students back on Tuesday 5 January.

Best wishes

Jonathan Webb
Headmaster

/ re Covid ...

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If you or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

What to do if you develop symptoms of COVID 19

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, you must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119. All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'. Further guidance is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

