



Re-founded 1555

# Ripon Grammar School

*Helping shape the future since 1555*



10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## New Year 9 Forms September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope this letter finds you safe and well. I write to update you on one aspect of school life that we follow every year and, despite circumstances, this year is no exception. It is a well-established tradition that we welcome new pupils to the school at the start of Year 9 and in so doing we move from four forms to five forms.

At the outset, I would like to stress that new groups are thought about very carefully. It is of crucial importance to note, too, that *we organise groups around the dynamics of learning and not around friendships*. I am sure you will remember some of the questions and uncertainties that the children had before joining their new forms in September 2018. We sometimes find that the thought of new forms can trigger similar feelings to two years ago. However, with the additional maturity and resilience that comes with age, we know from experience that pupils take this change in their stride.

We will be supporting this transition with a range of activities in tutor time that aim to support pupils to make new friends and add to their existing friendships. New friends and old friends will mix at break and lunches. Indeed, if you were to ask any 4th year pupil or older, they would smile and say: it works. It always has before, and it will again.

By way of further supporting this change, we give the same message to all pupils: *once we have announced the new forms, no movement will be possible*. There will be no exceptions to this. When asked about this, I always remind pupils that natural cycles of renewal and change colour our lives – and education is no exception. I also underline that a moment like this is great preparation for life: in my experience, change is one of the few constants in life.

I have extended this message in a short online assembly that I will share with the whole year group. I would be grateful for your support in discussing the contents of this letter. Finally, attached to this letter are the details of the form that your child/ren will be in from September. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at the following address: [hoy8@ripongrammar.com](mailto:hoy8@ripongrammar.com)

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the summer holidays. We look forward to seeing all the pupils again in September.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Barber**  
Head of Year 8

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