



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



18 July 2018

Dear Parents

I write as the end of another academic year approaches at Ripon Grammar School. The final few weeks have seen a flurry of events and activities in addition to the regular news items that you will be able to read about in our latest edition of RGS News.

The last few weeks have typically been incredibly busy for many of us, with the days punctuated by some memorable occasions for the school. We have had sports day, a truly memorable occasion with 14 records broken under cloudless skies; we have had the summer concert with some superb individual performances- a poignant event in that a number of the leavers came and gave their final performance; an Old Riponian reunion which saw a cohort of students from the 1950s and 1970s return- some for the first time- to reminisce and find many features of the school fabric completely unchanged. This week and last we also had the junior production of the Jungle Book and the Art Department's showcase of examination work. On Tuesday night we hosted our inaugural Sports Award Evening which was a wonderful showcase for the talent and achievement of our students in sport.

Lower School Prize Giving was a superb occasion to celebrate academic endeavour. It was also memorable for welcoming back former head boy Hugh McHale-Maughan to hear his predictions about how the job market will change in the coming decades as a result of mechanisation and automation- a stark yet hopefully optimistic message, since history suggests that where jobs are lost new opportunities present themselves. It seems clear that the caring professions such as nursing or teaching will be remain secure professions. The interactive whiteboard has not replaced the classroom teacher!

It is with sadness of course that we say goodbye to a number of staff this term who leave us for pastures new. Mr Astley leaves us for Bromsgrove School, having taught German here for 2 years and been a resident in School House. Ms Bennett who joined RGS in 2014 has now secured promotion to become second in the MFL department at Fulford, York. In addition to her teaching she has been a deputy head of sixth form. Mrs Dodd, head of Psychology will be replacing her in that role. Mr Margerison will be leaving us this year to take up the post of Head of Sixth Form at North Bridge House School. Mr Margerison has been with us for 7 years and in that time has been a teacher of Mathematics, Deputy Head of Upper School, houseparent in School House and co-coach of the 1st XV Rugby team. Mr Spiers departs after 8 years as Head of History and as houseparent in School House. He leaves us to take up the post of Head of Sixth and Head of History at The Mount School in York. Mrs Schofield will also leave us after 11 years' service in the DT department. While with us she has also been our STEM coordinator and lately head of PSHCE. Mrs Schofield will be joining Northallerton College in September.

In addition there are a few other staff changes to note. Mr Walker will be standing down as head of ICT. However he will be remaining with us as Enterprise and Work Experience Coordinator, working within the careers department. Miss Gilfillan will be relinquishing the post of Head of PE following 10 years' service in that role. Mr Milner has been appointed Director of Sport from September. Finally we also say a partial goodbye to Mrs Wright. She will remain with us for part of next year as a teacher of English but she has relinquished her role as Head of Upper School. Miss Clark will replace her in that role.

September sees the start of 12 new members of staff. Mrs Judd joins as a part time teacher Psychology and Miss Raymond as a full time teacher of Geography. In the Mathematics department, Mr Donovan and Mrs Johnson join us full time, the latter also becoming Deputy Head of Upper School. Dr Dekanski also joins part time. Mrs Anderson will divide her teaching equally between ICT and Business Studies. Miss Ball will join the Art department part time and will also become a Houseparent in School House. In the Modern Foreign Languages Department Mrs Stoker and Ms Wallington will be teaching German and Spanish respectively. Ms Wallington will also become a Houseparent in Johnson House. Mr Barber will be joining the English department full time and will also become deputy head of Lower school. In DT Miss Stevenson joins us full time. Finally Mr Long has been appointed Head of History.

As part of the non-teaching staff we will also be welcoming Mr Belcher as a resident Houseparent in School House and Mrs Savage will be starting a new role in school as our publicity and marketing manager which will include such key roles as supporting alumni relations, editing Clocktower and other school publications.

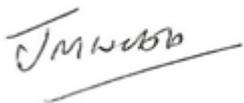
We wish all our new starters a very warm welcome to the RGS community.

Also over the summer there will be some important upgrades to the school estate. Aesthetically the main change will be the replacement of windows on the front elevation of the science block. This will improve energy efficiency considerably.

A major investment for the school will be a comprehensive re-cabling of the schools' IT infrastructure, alongside a full switch upgrade and wi fi solution. This will deliver faster connectivity across the school site including the boarding houses and future-proof us for years to come. As a result of this there has already been communication with regards to the email system which will also have to be temporarily suspended for a period as yet undetermined. Any enquiries sent to school should therefore be sent using the email admin@ripogrammar.com which we will continue to be monitored over the break. This will be especially important during the period of examination results.

And so we look forward to a new academic year also. For some it will mean a fresh season of examinations, new chances to make new friends, meet new students joining us. For those in the Fifth Form and our leavers in the Sixth Form it means new courses or university choices. Exciting times indeed. But whatever is new next year, let's not forget our common roots; those things which remain steadfast and bind us together. Today's Commemoration Service is a point for such reflection. No doubt students will be thinking about the end of term, but Commemoration is also an opportunity to reflect on our foundation, thank those distant names, but also reflect on our current benefactors, supporters and parents who have invested not just money but also emotional capital in the school.

Best wishes for the summer break.



Jonathan M Webb
Headmaster