



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



21 December 2017

Parents of Upper 6th 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 6th form events and programmes.

I must start by saying that we continue to be deeply impressed with the Upper 6th year group, and the wholehearted way in which they continue to approach their studies and their time in our 6th form. They are excellent leaders, and it is a privilege to work with them.

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 Parents' Evening). These reports indicate excellent progress amongst our Upper 6th students, and tremendous commitment and drive to succeed. The final set of reports for the year will be published in March, and will offer full written comments alongside the grades, which will allow the students to make any final adjustments ahead of their A Level examinations. We will also use the **mock examinations** in the week beginning the 19th February 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.

In terms of **Post-School Choices**, almost all students applying to university have now made their applications, with many holding excellent offers. We will provide the next phase of advice and guidance about making confirmed choices, and then applying for student finance, in the first week back after Christmas. May I take this opportunity to thank the Upper 6th Form Tutors, the Careers Department and Mrs Fell, Miss Bennett and Mrs Griffiths for their support and guidance for the Upper 6th students as they went through the application process, alongside the staff who read countless personal statements and offered interview practice.

Where students are not applying to university this year, are taking gap years, or are seeking apprenticeship or other routes into employment, we will work with each student to ensure that a clear plan is in place for the year beyond school, and to

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ensure that they have all the guidance and support that they need. We will also be working to ensure that students are prepared for the transition and challenges that moving on from school will offer them.

We are very aware that some students may waver or change their minds about their plans over the next few months. This is certainly not unusual, and it is really important that, should a student be feeling any concerns, they come and talk to the 6th form team or Careers Department so that we can help them resolve any uncertainties, and feel confident about their decisions and choices.

With future choices in mind, there are a number of events coming up which may be of interest to students and parents:

On **Wednesday 31st January** we will host an **Apprenticeship Fair** to offer further information for students to learn more about routes directly into industry and employment.

Our main **Careers Evening** on the evening of **Wednesday 14th 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 20th March** we will host the **Students' World Roadshow** for 6th form students to learn more about study across the world.

We do hope that your son or daughter is enjoying their final year at RGS, and that, although it is inevitably challenging at times, they are establishing fond memories which they will take away of their time here. Thank you, in particular, for your support over the past twelve months.

Finally, on behalf of the 6th 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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