



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



22 March 2019

Dear Parents

I am pleased to announce that construction of the 3G pitch will be under way soon. We expect that contractors will be on the school site from the 8 April to erect security fencing, with the main work commencing the following week. Numerous people have asked me the question, over the course of the year, 'when will the pitch be built?'. The delay has been frustrating, but inevitably things take a little longer than anticipated, but the school has endeavoured to ensure that what we end up with is the best possible outcome for students. A construction of this size and complexity has necessitated long discussions with a number of parties, including the Old Riponians, since the pitch will be part-constructed on the Memorial Field. The 3G pitch is funded by Persimmon Homes and will provide RGS with a significant addition to its current sporting facilities. It will provide students with an excellent all-weather learning environment – principally for football and rugby.

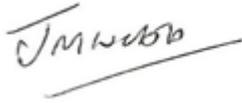
The 3G pitch will encompass a full-size FIFA compliant football pitch with markings, including full size goals on wheels and three cross-width 7-a-side football pitches with markings and goals on wheels. It will also provide a full-size World Rugby Regulation 22 compliant rugby pitch, with markings and rugby posts. Floodlighting and fencing will also be part of the installation. This pitch will be for the sole use of the school up to 5:30 p.m. but, as part of a Community Use Agreement, will also be available for public hire in the evenings and at weekends and holidays. Partner clubs are Ripon RUFC and Ripon City AFC. Contractors will also undertake to re-level and re-site the 1st XV grass rugby pitch, with lateral pipes for drainage to provide another first class facility. Two illuminated footpaths will link the 3G pitch with the sports hall and car park for student, parent and public access.

We are also at an advanced stage in planning for a new changing facility to sit alongside the 3G pitch. This will be a major capital addition to the school's estate providing additional changing, showers and toilets for about 80 students, with additional office space and storage. This will address some of the school's current problems with its limited, and somewhat widely distributed, changing facilities. It is intended that we can coordinate the changing facility build with the 3G pitch construction, with a view to opening the whole installation for the Autumn term start. I will attach the layout plan for the whole site in next week's RGS News for further information.

During the build period there will be disruption, of course, to the use of the playing fields. The main access for vehicles will be via the main drive, at closely prescribed times, and so we will be making alternative provision for pedestrian access. The cricket pitch should be largely unaffected but the running track will be relocated permanently to the lower field for sports day in addition to permanent relocation of the junior rugby pitch, the long jump pits and the observatory. The whole site will be securely fenced off during the build, encompassing the whole area currently occupied by the senior and junior rugby pitches and a safe access corridor will be provided for students to gain entry to the lower field. We will also look closely at screening and planting to safeguard the aesthetic and ecological impact.

/...

I hope you will agree that this is an exciting and major addition to the school's facilities. Its community use will also make it a major addition for the city of Ripon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J M Webb", with a horizontal line underneath.

Jonathan M Webb
Headmaster

