



# Ripon Grammar School

*Engineering Specialism within a Grammar School*

## **RIPON GRAMMAR SCHOOL GOVERNORS'** **ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS 2011/2012**

### **Introduction**

Current DfE regulations mean that the school now submits its annual report by computer with publication via the internet early in the New Year. The governors feel that it would be helpful to communicate a basic, but meaningful, set of data direct to parents given that there is no longer an annual meeting with parents. Both these activities are no longer mandatory for governing bodies; however the governors are keen to promote good communication with parents and provide opportunities for dialogue. If you wish to communicate with a school governor, please use the school email address [admin@ripongrammar.co.uk](mailto:admin@ripongrammar.co.uk), or write to the particular governor at the school address. A list of our governors is enclosed in this prospectus and details are also available on our website [www.ripongrammar.co.uk](http://www.ripongrammar.co.uk)

### **Governors' Role**

The governors continue to monitor the activities of the school via its functional committees (Boarding, Curriculum, Finance & Personnel, Liaison, Pastoral & Pupil Discipline and Premises). The committees review activities and results in a critical but supportive manner, and engage with the school's management in formulating policies and plans for the future. Increasingly they are involved in the self audit process that is ongoing within the school. Under the Ofsted inspection regime, the governors' contribution is assessed and evaluated (see recent Ofsted report).

### **Academic Results**

The governors were delighted with the excellent academic performance, with 99% pass rate at A level and 79.1% A\*/B grades, a school record. The school enjoyed outstanding GCSE results with 65.4% A\*/A grades achieved. All students gained entry at their first or second choice university with all medics, vets and dentists securing university places. All Oxbridge students also met their offers.

Each year the governors conduct a thorough review of results and work with the school's management on developing strategies for dealing with any significant areas of under achievement. The information below summarises the headline indicators for the current and previous years. Detailed information by subject is available on the website or on request. Governors are delighted that record years at both A2 and GCSE were achieved, making Ripon Grammar School the highest performing state school in Yorkshire.

		<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>A level</b>	Pass rate (A-E)	99.5%	99.4%	99.1%
	Grades A* A & B	79.1%	69.1%	71.3%
	Grades A*	16.8%	23.2%	
<b>AS level</b>	Pass rate (A-E)	94.6%	96.9%	99.4%
	Grades A & B	56.9%	68.1%	65.7%
<b>GCSE</b>	Pass rate (A*-C)	98.3%	97.7%	96.7%
	Grades A* & A	65.4%	58.9%	63.5%

### **Highlights**

Accepting the limitations of a snapshot report, the governors would like to highlight the following:

<b>Boarding</b>	Dr Patrick Caldwell has taken over as Senior Housemaster in School House. Mrs Ruth Smith continues as Senior Housemistress in Johnson House. A major programme of refurbishment has begun and will be completed in two years. Boarding is flourishing; both houses are full. A wide range of extra curricular activities is offered helped by three GAP students from Germany, New Zealand and Mexico from September 2011.
<b>Curriculum</b>	A2 PE has been taken this summer for the first time along with GCSE Spanish. Latin is being offered as an extra curricular option at GCSE in addition to it being offered as one of three GCSE option subjects. A widening of options at GCSE is currently under consideration, but there are financial constraints. However design/technology is no longer compulsory at GCSE. There is a projected take up of 60% in the fourth form for DT in 2011 now it is in the Options.
<b>Finance &amp; Personnel</b>	During the financial year 2010/11 the net revenue surplus was £86,868. The Local Authority allowed the school to run an in-year capital deficit for the Astroturf which resulted in -£133,798. At the end of the year, the school had revenue reserves of £141,342 with commitments of £10,123, leaving an uncommitted balance of £131,219.
<b>Pastoral &amp; Discipline</b>	Pastoral care continues to be a high priority within the school and the absences and exclusions statistics reflect the success in this area. Authorised absences (Autumn term 2010) were 3.29% and unauthorised absences were 0.22%. There were no permanent exclusions and 1 fixed term exclusion, which was for 3 days or less. The Student Council is focusing on recycling in school as a whole school project.
<b>Premises</b>	The School has been very successful this year in continuing to improve the facilities available to both pupils and staff, significantly in securing planning permission and the funding from the Local Authority for a new music block. The start of the project has been delayed due to gypsum issues on site. It is hoped that building will commence in Autumn 2011. An extension to the car park has been completed over the summer holiday. The first two phases of a renovation programme for the dormitories in the two boarding houses has been completed. Phases 3 and 4 will be complete by the end of next year. There have been many other maintenance projects to ensure that the school facilities are updated. The Astroturf pitch is installed and being used successfully following the approval by the Local Authority of an approved budget deficit. The school and governors are committed to ensuring that the facilities at Ripon Grammar School match the aspirations of the pupils, staff and parents of the school and community.
<b>Communications</b>	The new telephone system installed in school during the summer term is proving very successful. The website is very popular and is being accessed more and more. The texting system is proving popular with parents and e-mail communication is being used more. There is not a complete set of e-mail addresses currently on the system and I would urge you to give your e-mail address to school as soon as possible if you have not already done so. The 5 year Strategic Plan has been written; it is available on request or can be accessed on the school website. It outlines the school's ambitious plans for the next phase of the school's development.
<b>Liaison</b>	There is successful collaboration between Boroughbridge High School, Outwood Academy Ripon and Ripon Grammar School in the sixth form. Regular meetings are held between Heads and Chair of Governors between Ripon Grammar School and Outwood Academy Ripon. AS Spanish will be delivered through collaboration with Boroughbridge High School with a small group of Lower Sixth students.
<b>Extra Curricular</b>	The school is very lucky to have so much on offer. Thank you again, to all staff that support a lot of the activities. Governors would like to remind parents to encourage their children to participate in at least one activity. The range has increased significantly, for example rock climbing, photography, astronomy, a puzzle club and street dance. If any parent would like to help provide support in a particular activity, it would be most welcome.

*Richard Marsden*

**R Marsden**  
*Chair of Governors*

*September 2011*