



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

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16 December 2021

Dear Parents

It seems customary to write at the end of term and express how long and tiring the last 14 weeks have been...and this term has been no exception. My unreserved thanks go to all the staff at Ripon Grammar School for their work and dedication in supporting students. It has been an important term for the simple reason that we have all had to readjust to what in any normal term would be seen as normal routines and there is no doubt that we are still adjusting. The last few days have seen the re-imposition of face masks in communal areas and classrooms which has introduced a new unsettling element. We await with a degree of apprehension about what the New Year will bring and can only hope that education continues, face to face, with minimal interruption. Part of that will be dependent on regular home testing and I refer you to recent communications on that matter.

On a more positive and happy note we have Christmas jumper day today, following two wonderful school events in recent weeks. The Christmas Concert and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in the cathedral were superb and moving tributes to the musical talent and dedication of the students and the music department. My thanks especially go to Mr Barker and Mrs Morpeth who, even now, are already rehearsing for next term's musical 'Beauty and the Beast'.

In staff news, we have been joined this term by Mr Graham Livesey as our Director of Strategic Operations whose role is to coordinate many aspects of our financial and estate-related matters to deliver an enhanced educational environment for all students. Mrs Zara Satariano and Mrs Lesley Harriman have joined the school as data manager and part-time school health worker respectively and Mrs Samina O'Brien will start in the New Year as our Inclusion Manager. Thanks go to Mrs Southwell who has returned to school this term to cover the transition period.

One final piece of staff news is the announcement of Miss Marita Murray's retirement at the end of this academic year. Miss Murray has given 18 years of dedicated service as Deputy Head, geography teacher, safeguarding lead, head of boarding and a myriad of other roles. We will of course be saying our goodbyes in the usual way at the end of the summer term and will sadly miss her huge experience and compassionate care for young people.

I wish all members of the RGS community, students, staff and parents a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Jonathan M Webb
Headmaster