



RGS Development Fund

Annual Target: £150,000 p.a.

20 November 2025

Dear Parents and Old Riponians

In September I wrote to you to tell you that about our recent appeal for the Development Fund to raise £150,000 p.a. Since my letter I am pleased to report that we have received donations totalling an additional £17,000 for the year. Thank you again to all supporters of the school. Your gifts are most appreciated by the students.

Sadly, the school's financial position remains extremely fragile and forecasted figures only suggest a worsening debt situation over the next 4 years, necessitating more radical change which could threaten RGS' curriculum offer. Recent information from gov.uk points to a further funding gap between school income and expenditure over the next 3 years. This will be even worse for grammar schools as money is channelled into high needs provision. To counter this bleak financial position gov.uk advice recommends that schools:

- Make further budget economies – *we have made as many as we can without damaging the curriculum offer.*
- Make full use of school assets – *we have a programme of lettings which fully utilises our bookable resources.*
- Sell school assets – *we have none to sell as we don't own the school.*
- Utilise existing bank reserves – *these are all used up.*

We need to continue to invest in current infrastructure such as planned maintenance, much needed IT equipment replacement, sports hall flooring, toilet refurbishment etc. which require significant sums of money. We also have many smaller projects on hold such as improved external lighting, car park fencing, carpet and flooring replacement [the current use of gaffer tape is not a long-term solution!], and general painting and decorating. We therefore need to-rely on parent and Old Riponian donations to support these changes.

How can you help the school to secure its future while at the same time benefiting current students?

Here are five possible ways:

- **A monthly donation of £10 per student, gift aided, would raise c£150,000!**
- A one-off gift which you might wish to be allocated to a particular part of school life.
- Sponsorship of equipment, kit or facilities.
- Provide information about business grants or charitable funds the school can access to support its work.
- Consider a legacy gift in your will.

What's more, it is *incredibly easy* to make a monthly or one-off donation.

Hover your phone over the QR code and you are then one tap away from the CAF online direct debit facility.

Jonathan Webb
Headmaster