



Ripon Grammar School

15 May 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians

Examinations

A Levels and GCSEs are now in full swing after our Year 11s and 13s embarked on their study leave last week. We said our fond farewells and wished good luck to the Year 13 'class of 26' at their Celebration Evening in hall on Thursday– always a poignant moment after, for some, 7 years at RGS. We hope all our students feel fully prepared and confident as they head into the examination season and wish them all the very best of success when the results days arrive.

School Officers

I would like to thank our departing 15 school officers, ably led by Head Girl Zara Ali and Head Boy Montgomery Bleiker, for all their service to the school over the past year. As the school's senior prefects they have considerable responsibilities, not just for their particular role such as heads of houses, boarding, welfare, community etc. but also as role models to younger students and for supporting daily school operations and organising a highly successful charity week in support of Parkinson's UK too. This week our newly appointed school officers, led by Head Boy William Renton and Head Girl Amelia Briggs, began their new responsibilities and no doubt they will be keen to build on the legacy left by their respective departing officers. I wish them well for the year ahead and congratulate them on their appointments.

Student endeavours

As always this half term has been a busy one and I would draw your attention to our news section of the website which has lots of regular updates on individual sporting, debating, DofE successes to reference but a few. This week we have our eagerly awaited junior production of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' following fast on the heels of last term's wonderful production of 'Oliver!' which showcased some amazing acting and singing talent and an orchestra composed entirely of student musicians. Equally impressive is the output of this year's GCSE and A Level Art students. Their work is on display around the school and looks superb.

Trips

We are all extremely fortunate at RGS to have staff prepared to take students on trips – many of which are overseas. Trips carry considerable responsibility and take a lot of time to organise. But we also know how enriching the experience is for our students. At Easter, the history department led a successful trip for Years 10 and 11 to Berlin and next Friday the MFL department has set the bar high, taking almost the whole of Year 8 to Paris. The ambition of this trip can only be matched by the individual ambitions of our students when they successfully summon the courage to order 'du brie et du pain' from the local market trader! My thanks as always to all staff who undertake to run such trips and next half term we will see students heading off to Rome, Beverley Park and Sorrento.

Founded in Saxon Times, re-founded in 1555

Headmaster: Mr Jonathan M Webb, MA

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Careers and UCAS

Recently we have seen some successful careers events such as the higher education talk, the careers evening and next week most of our Year 10 are out on work experience. My thanks to Mr Walker who continues to work tirelessly to ensure all students in the school have suitable work experience. Year 12s will be embarking on trips to Cambridge and Oxford and the Newcastle & Northumbria open day. We wish the Year 12 well in their decision making on next destinations.

Estates

I am sure we were all glad to see the scaffolding disappear from Bishopton House last week. NYC have completed repairs to the roof of this historic building and this has also allowed us to complete the School House boarding renovations which, after 3 years, has seen all rooms refurbished and a new common room – complete with snooker table and media wall! - ready for next half term. We have now begun refurbishments in Johnson House with a planned programme of work over the next few years. The first of the quads has now been completed and four Year 8 and 9 girls took up excited occupancy this week. We continue to invest as best we can in the fabric of the school and I would like to thank all parents who have contributed to the Development Fund which has allowed some recent renovation in the mathematics block and carpet upgrades in the HL block.

Fundraising

I received a response, via our MP Sir Julian Smith, from the current Secretary of State, Bridget Phillipson MP, today concerning school funding. The letter did little to allay my concerns. As a result we remain extremely grateful to all parents who are able to contribute to the school's development fund which not only supports such things as sports transport, the school minibus, support for individual and group student endeavours such as the recent student magazine [see news] but now also general maintenance requirements and IT. Please do consider making a monthly donation, however small, to support your school.



Car parking and access to the school

In light of recent incidents, I would like to remind all parents of the following protocols governing parent use of the school drive and car park which have been shared in the past.

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General Points:

Other than exemptions listed below:

- Up until 4:30pm each day, **only members of staff are permitted to access the main drive and car park.**
- **Students should not be driven onto the school site** to be dropped off/picked up at any time before 4:30 pm, **including before 9 am.** This also applies to students delivered by taxi.
- Parents should use Clotherholme Road for parking and students should use the footpaths to enter/exit the school site.
- Due to heavy congestion along Clotherholme Road, particularly on Mondays, it is suggested that parents drop off and pick up their child some distance from the school. This gives the added health benefit of students walking to school. Alternatively, the bus park is usually available for pick up from 4:10pm (or 3:10pm on Mondays). Please observe usual road restrictions such as not parking on hatched areas.
- Students, other than boarders or students onsite for a specific activity, **should not arrive before 8:30 am** and should depart school by 5:00 pm. The library is available until 5 pm (4:30 pm on Friday)

The following exemptions to the General Points above apply:

- **Parents with students who require special access** due to physical need. Taxis/cars may use the two designated disabled parking bays in front of the Clocktower. Please notify reception in advance so that duty staff know who will be using the main drive.
- **Boarding parents** may use the main car park/Johnson House parking to pick up and drop off boarders on Sunday evening [no time restriction], Monday morning [before 8:30am] and Friday evening [after 4:15 pm]. Please note Johnson House Drive is strictly closed to all vehicles between 8:30 am to 4:10 pm, Monday to Friday.
- Parents who are visitors with an appointment in school may access the drive and main car park during the school day and park in the **visitor parking bay** in front of School House entrance.

For all using the Main School and Johnson House Drives, drivers are requested to:

- Stop at the bottom of the drive before proceeding onto Clotherholme Road.
- **Observe the 5mph limit at all times** on the drive and in the car park and turn on hazard lights.
- Proceed with caution over the two sleeping policemen and the raised zebra crossing – taking due regard for pedestrians using the zebra crossing.
- For those exiting the car park, give way to cars coming up the drive from Clotherholme Road by stopping at the give way point.

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Finally, last month, and as you may have seen, we received a heart-warming [please ignore the section on me] write up from The Goods Schools Guide which you can read here: [Ripon Grammar School Review | The Good Schools Guide](#)

Thank you for your support as parents in guiding your sons and daughters and making this school such a strong community. I hope we continue to remain 'down to earth and pupil focused'.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Webb
Headmaster

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