



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



20 January 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

The Religious Studies department would like to invite your son or daughter to visit Ripon Cathedral on Tuesday 14th March. The Cathedral are offering a workshop day for secondary students on 'God and the Big Bang', a science-faith education project run by St John's College, Durham. The visit is for GCSE Religious Studies students only, both years 10 and 11. The trip has been organised in collaboration with Mrs Yvonne Jefferies, Ripon Cathedral's Education Officer and Sarah Moring, Schools Development Officer, from Durham University. The intention of the visit will be to support their continued GCSE studies with a particular focus on the relationship between faith and the environment, Christian beliefs about creation and the origin of the universe - themes in line with the AQA GCSE Specification.

A brief outline of the sessions we'll be doing on the day are as follows:

Climate change: A session looking at the impacts of climate change on the planet and its inhabitants and considering the solutions that science and technology offers us. We will debate why humans should care about climate change and what might convince us to take action.

Curiosity: A session looking at our human instinct to be curious and what it means to be human. We will look at whether limits should be put on science, what some of the good and bad outcomes of curiosity in science may be and how we approach ethical questions in science and technology.

Trust: A session looking at how we decide what and who we trust. We consider the meaning of evidence and how we decide whether to trust what scientists tell us or not and how we use evidence to inform faith.

All of the workshops focus on giving students the tools they need to discover their own opinion, enter into discussion with experts and debate some of life's biggest questions with their peers. All the sessions are designed to be completely accessible and engaging for students of any faith and none.

The hope is the visit will enrich each student's experience of the subject and support with their continued GCSE studies in preparation for their end of year examinations.

We will be leaving the school site by 09:30 after morning registration to make the short walk down to the Cathedral. The visit will conclude at 14:30 and students will walk back up to the school with myself, Mr. Cornish and supporting members of staff, and returning in time for period 8 classes.

Headmaster: Mr. Jonathan M. Webb, MA (Cantab).

Address: Clotherholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG Telephone: (01765) 602647 Facsimile: (01765) 606388

Email: admin@ripongrammar.co.uk Website: www.ripongrammar.co.uk





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Parents are requested to provide consent for their son/daughter to attend the trip by paying a voluntary contribution of £11.50 using ParentPay no later than Tuesday 28th February. The trip will be cancelled if insufficient funds are collected.

Students will be required to bring their own packed lunch on the day. Please note that no nuts, or anything containing nuts, should be included.

If you would like further information regarding the trip, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is jacksonc@ripongrammar.com.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Jackson
Teacher of Religious Studies
Ripon Grammar School

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