



Ripon Grammar School

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Re-founded 1555

22 October 2021

Dear Parents

I am pleased to report on what has been a very successful half term, finished off with a lovely Autumn Concert last week and a very successful charity week of fun activities in support of The Survivors Trust. Thank you to the school officer team who have worked so hard to make this week a success.

It has been a joy to return school life back to as near as normal can be. We have had a number of students off with Covid this term but thankfully numbers have stabilised and we remain cautious in our approach. We will continue to follow advice from the Infection Management Team at NYCC. Thankfully disruption to learning has been minimised and I do hope our examination years feel increasingly confident about the assessment landscape ahead.

I have been very pleased to hear that our new students in Year 7, 9 and 12 have made such a positive start, with lots of comments about how well they have all settled in. It was especially nice to speak to Year 7 this morning in assembly and compliment them on how well they have made their transition from primary phase, despite the upheavals of the last 18 months. Thank you especially to our Year 7 tutors and the Head of Year, Miss Hoskins, who I know have worked so supportively with this year group.

As a school we remain committed to working with all our students to get them back into normal routines and practices and build up the traditions for which this school can be justifiably proud. However, we also face new challenges, none more so it seems than the use and abuse of online social media. I would ask that parents are vigilant in supporting the school's message and monitor, as much as they can, the online presence of their child. We are also determined to improve standards of uniform and appearance which I believe are the first building blocks of a positive approach to school. Please do read the letter from Miss Murray which comes out today and ensure your son/daughter is properly attired after half term. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to draw a reminder to two earlier communications from me. The first is an appeal to parents who are interested in joining The Friends of RGS that there is a meeting on Tuesday 2 November at 4:30pm in school. The second is reminder on behalf of the Year 12 garden volunteers that we still need some more plants! Thank you to those who have donated so far, but half term is a perfect opportunity to lift and divide your perennials, stick in a pot or a bucket and leave outside Bishopton House reception. The sixth formers have a real passion to make the school a blaze of colour next spring and summer, so any donations – bulbs, perennials, compost or even just vouchers would be gratefully received.

With best wishes for a peaceful half term.

Jonathan M Webb
Headmaster