Ripon Grammar School

3 November 2026

Year 11 GCSE Religious Studies – Visit to Ripon Cathedral, Tuesday 24th November 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Religious Studies Department is delighted to invite your son or daughter to an educational visit to **Ripon Cathedral on Tuesday 24th November 2026**. Organised in collaboration with Dr Jennifer Lindsay, the Cathedral's Education Officer, the visit offers students a valuable opportunity to enrich their understanding of **Religion, Peace and Conflict**, an important topic within the AQA GCSE Religious Studies specification, which will feature in their forthcoming mock and final GCSE examinations.

Following the success of our visits over the past three years, we have adapted this year's programme to focus on two particularly engaging and valuable workshops:

- **Reverend Cliff Bowman – "A Nurse, Three Soldiers and a Sailor"**: An engaging workshop bringing the history of conflict to life through personal stories connected to Ripon. It encourages students to reflect on the human experiences of war, sacrifice and remembrance, providing memorable examples to support their GCSE studies.

- **Lieutenant Colonel Reverend Nick Mercer – Religion, Conflict and Military Service:** Drawing on his experience as a senior British Army lawyer, Reverend Mercer explores the moral and religious questions surrounding warfare and military service. His session directly supports our GCSE course, with students particularly benefiting from the opportunity to ask questions and engage in thoughtful discussion.

Both sessions provide an excellent opportunity for students to deepen their understanding, explore different perspectives and strengthen their ability to evaluate issues relevant to their GCSE examinations.

Arrangements for the Visit

To minimise disruption to students' other GCSE subjects, we have arranged an afternoon visit rather than taking students out of school for a full day. Tuesday has been deliberately selected as all Year 11 GCSE Religious Studies students have timetabled RS lessons that day. Students will be released from lessons at **12:10pm** to take an early packed lunch at school before departing on foot for Ripon Cathedral at **12:30pm**. The workshops will run from **1:00pm to 3:30pm**, after which students will return to school accompanied by staff, in time for their usual transport arrangements.

Headmaster: Mr Jonathan M Webb, MA
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Students will be accompanied by myself, Mr Cornish and an additional member of staff. With parental permission, students may depart directly from the Cathedral at the end of the visit rather than return to school.

Students should bring a packed lunch or buy items for lunch at breaktime, to be eaten at school before departure. Please ensure lunches contain no nuts or products containing nuts.

Consent and Payment

Although attendance is voluntary, we strongly encourage students to take advantage of this worthwhile opportunity. A voluntary contribution of **£5.10** per student is requested towards the cost of the visit as the Cathedral charges for educational programmes. If you would like your son or daughter to attend, please provide consent through ParentPay by **Friday 13th November 2026**. The trip will be cancelled if insufficient funds are collected.

We very much hope students will enjoy this positive and enriching experience. Previous visits have been extremely successful, and we are confident that the afternoon will provide valuable support for their continued GCSE studies and revision, while also deepening their appreciation of the history and significance of Ripon Cathedral.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at **jacksonc@ripongrammar.com**.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Jackson
Head of Religious Studies
Ripon Grammar School