



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

Helping shape the future since 1555



28 September 2022

Dear Year 7 Parents

I am pleased to report that our Year 7 have made a great start to their journey at RGS. Speaking to their teachers and Miss Anderson as Head of Year, there is a real sense that a positive start has been made. Matters of attendance, uniform and conduct are excellent, and there appears to be a great appetite to learn new things. Let's hope that continues! I will be going into form time over the next week or so to meet each member of the year in order to get to know them better.

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend the welcome tea on 16 September; feedback was very positive and it was lovely to have so many positive conversations with parents. Miss Anderson will be writing to you this week to update you about various forthcoming events, including our charity week which this year is in aid of WaterAid – an incredibly worthwhile charity given the problems so many people, less fortunate than ourselves, have in accessing clean and reliable fresh water. The School Officer team led by the head boy and girl will be working hard to develop an exciting week of activities for students and your support will be most valued.

I am also writing to you today to ask you to consider contributing to the **RGS Activities Fund**. This Activities Fund exists to provide money for non-core activities the school undertakes which are ***not funded out of central government grants made for education***. These include travel costs for sporting fixtures [last year this totalled £16,420], our monthly hire of the school mini-bus, some costs of music and drama productions that are not met by ticket sales, and general subsidies applied to trips to reduce costs for all and for individuals in hardship. In addition, one-off purchases for 'nice to have' items such as picnic benches are funded out of this account, as are fees for such events as the Commemoration Service and Christmas Carol Concert in Ripon Cathedral. This Fund exists separate to the work undertaken by the Friends of Ripon Grammar School who also contribute towards school items, but it does ensure that every student benefits in some small way by allowing the school to run a rewarding and varied programme which I believe is a real strength of an RGS education.

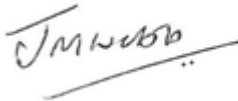
At present our annual costs exceed contributions into the fund and without additional donations we will have to either curtail sports fixtures and trip subsidies or make individual charges to students travelling to fixtures or increase ticket sale prices etc. At the present rate, we will be unable to fund any travel in 3 years' time and it is not possible to fund these activities out of our core funding for educational services. As a result, I am appealing to all parents to contribute to the Activities Fund to ensure we can continue to support the rich and varied co-curricular programme. I am aware that family finances are being eroded considerably, now more than ever, but I believe there has never been a more appropriate time to invest in the co-curricular opportunities of our students.

If you do wish to give, you can make a one-off donation or set up a regular monthly standing order. No matter how small the donation it would be gratefully appreciated – a minimum donation of £2 per month from every parent in the school would allow us to continue our current operations.

One-off donations can be made via Parent Pay – just click on the *Pay For Other Items* tab and determine the amount. More regular giving will allow us to plan ahead more effectively, so if you do want to set up a regular payment please complete the form found here, [Ripon Grammar School General Fund \(office.com\)](#) which also gives details on gift aid and the setting up of a standing order **which will need to be arranged with your bank.**

Please accept my sincere thanks on behalf of all our students if you currently make a monthly donation and to those who will now choose to make a donation on their behalf.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J M Webb". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Jonathan M Webb
Headmaster
Ripon Grammar School