



Ripon Grammar School

June 2023

URGENT APPEAL RGS Development Fund Target £150,000 p.a.

Dear Parents, Friends, Old Riponians, Governors

Ripon Grammar School is built on a long tradition of providing an excellent academic education in conjunction with an outstanding, co-curricular offering, delivering a high-quality learning experience. We are proud of RGS and its history and ambitious for the future of the school. We know that you all share this pride because you have all either chosen to send your children to RGS, been students in the past or currently work here. Our responsibility is to protect and enhance that legacy. It is for this reason that we are writing to you to appeal for your financial help to reinvigorate the **School Development Fund**.

Our aim is an ambitious one: to raise **£150,000 per year** through regular giving.

THE CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

The financial pressures facing schools in the current economic climate are severe and Ripon Grammar School is not immune. First, spiralling energy prices and rampant inflation has had a devastating effect. For example our energy costs have risen, in the past year alone, by more than £250,000 (equivalent to approximately 280%). Second, despite some additional limited and conditional grants, government funding has not kept pace with rising costs. Not only has our discretion to invest in the school in the way that we want to been severely curtailed, we are at the point where our educational offer is under threat.

OUR FUTURE NEEDS

RGS prides itself on offering a curriculum which is more than a 'standard offer'. In addition, we run an ambitious co-curricular programme for which we receive no funding from central government. The school also needs to invest in several essential capital projects (e.g. urgent IT upgrades including comprehensive Wifi, sporting refurbishment such as our Astro surface, tennis and netball courts, new and refurbished classrooms) that are critical to supporting the current standard of education. This expenditure will unavoidably add strain to the school's finances and restrict further the scope of our discretionary spend.

OUR CURRENT CONTROLS

The Senior Leadership Team and Governors regularly scrutinise the school's expenditure. An enormous amount of effort has been directed at making the school more energy efficient. Through targeted investment and controls we have reduced energy consumption by approximately 15% to date. Even so, energy is now, by far, the second largest expenditure that the school must meet. We have been able to cut some discretionary budgets and look closely at our overall staffing needs to make economies where possible. However, despite this, the school's expenditure currently exceeds its income, requiring further measures to be implemented.



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THE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT FUND AT PRESENT

The Development Fund helps support our school clubs and societies, music groups and choirs, concerts and performances. The Fund at present raises c£800 per month from the generous donation of 55 individuals (effectively representing 6% of the school population).

In recent years contributions have diminished dramatically and the total in the Fund is being depleted rapidly. For example, last year sports transport cost £20,386 while donations totalled c£9,500. The possibility of fixture cancellations and the curtailment of trips is now under serious consideration after previous warnings as we are unable to direct any of our core funding to support these activities.

OUR TARGET

In appealing for regular giving we are hoping to first, reverse the decline in funding for our co-curricular provision and second, increase regular giving to preserve and enhance our curriculum offer. Current and former RGS students have benefitted from the generosity of those that have donated in the past. In the same way, our current and future students will benefit from your generosity now.

We are asking all supporters of RGS to contribute in whatever way they can. However, to raise the money necessary to protect our educational offer for the long term, **our target is for the School Development Fund to regularly generate at least £150,000 per annum through voluntary donations.** We recognise that this is an ambitious figure. The sum equates to a suggested donation of **£10 per student per month** (£2.50 per week) were all parents to contribute equally **and claim Gift Aid on their donation.**

Regular giving can be set up easily via:

- [RGS Development Fund - Ripon Grammar School](#),
- [Ripon Grammar School Development Fund - Donate now \(cafonline.org\)](#), or
- Scanning the QR code:



If you would like to support the school in other ways such as sponsorship please do contact us at the school directly, by email to admin@ripongrammar.com We do recognise fully that circumstances are difficult for many, and we do not make this appeal lightly, but we also know that the whole school will be enormously grateful. We sincerely hope you can support our appeal and make our target figure a reality as this money will make a significant difference to what RGS can offer its students.

Yours sincerely

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