



Ripon Grammar School

12 July 2023

Dear Parents,

With the World Challenge expedition very nearly upon us, we are aware that many of you, as well as your sons and daughters, might be excited yet nervous about the trips ahead.

We are equally aware that a very small number of you have expressed concerns about the “no mobile phones policy”. However, after careful consideration and discussions with our accompanying World Challenge leaders and a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team, we confirm that the policy remains in place. Our four World Challenge expedition leaders have run dozens of trips between them; based on their vast experience, we strongly believe that students will get much more out of the trip if they are focusing on their surroundings and can fully immerse themselves in the opportunities that such an adventure will bring to them, rather than focussing on their online lives.

In practical terms, the possibility of handsets, which are often expensive and contain personal data and memories, being lost, damaged or stolen adds an extra headache to the trip leaders and could inevitably detract from group activities and time spent having fun. There is also no guarantee that access to charging will be available at many of the accommodation locations.

During the long-haul flight, students will have access to in-flight entertainment (which usually provide film, games and music options) and could also opt to take a book / magazine. Alternatively, a music playing device such as an MP3 player could be used.

As previously explained by World Challenge, each team will have a shared mobile phone for research, emergencies and for taking photographs which can subsequently be shared to the whole team. Teams may also agree between themselves to create a blog so parents and family can follow their adventures.

Thank you for your support and we wish students and leaders an enjoyable, safe and rewarding time on their long-awaited World Challenge.

Yours sincerely

A Wallington
RGS WC leader

Founded in Saxon Times, re-founded in 1555

Headmaster: Mr Jonathan M Webb, MA
Address: Clothholme Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 2DG
Tel: [01765] 602647 **Email:** admin@ripongrammar.com
Website: www.ripongrammar.co.uk