



Ripon Grammar School

15 July 2026

Welcome from Head of Year

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It was a pleasure to meet so many of you at the Welcome Evening in June. I was also fortunate enough to meet most of the children whilst visiting primary schools around that same period. For those I have not had the chance to meet yet, this letter is a brief introduction. My name is Jonny Harding and I am Head of Year 7. I joined Ripon Grammar School in 2016. I teach PE to all year groups, including at A Level, and I am delighted to have the opportunity to welcome our new cohort of students into school and look forward to getting to know them all, supporting their progress throughout the time they are with us at RGS.

As Head of Year, my priority is ensuring that all students feel safe, happy and supported. I am responsible for monitoring academic progress, attendance, and behaviour of the students. Alongside my full-time teaching commitments, I will be working closely with the year group throughout their time at the school. I like being able to pop into classrooms to see students enjoying their learning and visiting extra-curricular activities to see students making the most of the fantastic opportunities we have on offer here at Ripon Grammar!

The transition to secondary school is a very exciting time for you and your child. The pastoral team and I are here to try and ensure this process is as smooth as possible. Attached to this email are two further documents; the first is an **"Induction Booklet"** that contains a wealth of information about the school which we hope will answer any questions your child might still have about RGS, and the second document is the **"Transition Workbook"** which contains a variety of optional activities that your children could do to help prepare them to join our school.

We recognise that moving to secondary school is a big change and the students may, understandably, feel nervous. The new term is likely to present your children with some challenges – a new journey, teachers, subjects, home learning and friends will take a fair amount of getting used to before feeling comfortable. Some students adapt quickly to these changes, and we hope your child is one of them, but some will need to lean on the support systems we have in place.

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



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Your first point of contact for support are our fantastic form tutors:

1A - Mrs Hawthorne [hawthornek@ripongrammar.com]

1B - Mrs Mars [marsh@ripongrammar.com] and **Mrs Sayers** on a Monday [sayerse@ripongrammar.com]

1C - Dr Grime [grimer@ripongrammar.com]

1D - Mr Rutter [rutterp@ripongrammar.com]

The role of the form tutor is to support and encourage the academic, personal and social development of the students in their tutor group in a kind and caring way. Students will see their form tutor each morning and you can contact them via email or by writing a note in the student planner.

In addition to the form tutors, if you have any pastoral queries or concerns you can contact me directly. My Head of Year 7 email address from September will be: hoy7@ripongrammar.com. I will endeavour to respond to emails within 48 hours. Alternatively, you can call school to leave a message.

At Ripon Grammar School we place emphasis on actively demonstrating our values, which should guide every student in all that they do. Our new students will quickly learn our expectations for Respect, Growth and Support, and their Induction Programme is designed to instill these values right from the start of their journey with us. Year 7 students will learn to take more responsibility for their conduct and independent learning than they might be used to.

Excellent learning is underpinned by excellent behaviour. Getting into good habits and being accountable for their actions is something we will be working with our students to develop, and we very much appreciate support with this from home.

Further to this, I include information about the school's rules with regard to smart phones and other smart technology. **'Smart' mobile phones and laptops are defined by the DfE as devices capable of receiving internet access, receiving notifications/messages and with video and app store capabilities.**

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Year 7-8

- Are permitted a non-smart phone on school site but it must be switched off and stored in a bag, locker or blazer. It may not be used on the school site at any time.
- Smartphones and laptops are not permitted on the school site unless as an agreed way of working for a SEND or medical need.
- Smartwatches and earbuds are prohibited.
- Improper use will result in a detention and confiscation of the device, with collection by parents allowed from the following day.
- **'Non-smart' [brick] phones are capable only of receiving calls and texts.**

Boarders

- Boarders require the ability to communicate home with parents and so are permitted a smartphone or non-smart phone or laptop in the boarding house but times of use are strictly regulated and phones will be handed in at specific times dependent on age.
- As a result, all use of the phone network must be strictly age-appropriate and parents are expected to ensure requisite age restrictions are placed on phones.

School Trips

- Decisions with regard to the use and control of mobile devices on school trips will be taken on the basis of the trip's purpose, the age of the students and the wider educational context. The school will take action to ensure that mobile phones do not disrupt the educational experience of the trip and will enforce sanctions for misuse.
- The school has two mobile phones with international coverage for visit leaders to use in the event they need to contact parents or school staff.

Additional Safeguards for all years:

- The school will continue to educate students about the dangers of online content, appropriate usage and mental health considerations.
- All access to the internet in school is through appropriate filtering systems.
- Staff will remain vigilant to prohibited use of mobile phones and report/confiscate as appropriate.
- Mobile phones and other associated smart devices are items that can be searched for if there are reasonable grounds to suspect misuse.

I hope you and your family have a safe and relaxing summer; I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Harding
Head of Year 7

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