



Re-founded 1555

Ripon Grammar School

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7 May 2024

Year 11 Study Leave 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians

We are writing to inform you that the school will allow your son or daughter to begin a period of Study Leave from 10.30am on **Wednesday 8 May**. As the GCSE examinations begin on Thursday 9 May, we believe that the majority of students will get the greatest benefit from being allowed to prepare at home, whilst facilities will be available for those who prefer to work on site.

We recognise that the day when study leave starts has some significance for Year 11 students, despite there being a high proportion who are not leaving Ripon Grammar School as they intend to continue in the Sixth Form in September. With this in mind, we will be inviting all Year 11 students in school on that **Wednesday 8 May** from normal start time to attend a leavers' assembly with their form tutors and other staff. (Please note that this assembly is for Year 11 students only.) After this, the students will be dismissed to commence their study leave around 10.30am and we would expect them to leave site at this time.

We will be speaking to the year group to outline our expectations concerning study leave. Unfortunately, some students, here as elsewhere, can misjudge the mood of the day and let themselves down by inappropriate behaviour and actions. The difficulty is always one of recognising that the day is slightly different, with a celebratory atmosphere intended to mark their time together as a year group, whilst also ensuring that students do not cause disruption on what must be, after all, a normal working day for other students and staff in the school.

Therefore, we thought that it would be helpful if we clarified the expectations, which can be summarised as follows:-

- **Appearance** – we would like students to attend in normal, non-uniform attire (casual but appropriate for school). We will not accept students who are inappropriately dressed to arrive on site and therefore they will not be able to take part in the celebrations. It is traditional for students to bring a school shirt for signing by their peers / teachers, and they are encouraged to bring one for this purpose*.
- **Behaviour** – any behaviour that disrupts the normal working of the school day or inconveniences students or staff will not be accepted or tolerated. Such behaviour will result in students being withdrawn from any celebrations, and parents will be requested to collect them immediately. This has not been an issue in the past but we feel it is important to re-iterate our expectations and help students in making appropriate decisions.

*Please note that if a student wishes to remain on site for the rest of Wednesday 8 May to revise, they should notify Mrs Hewison in advance, and a full change into uniform will be expected by 11.00am on that day.

Headmaster: Mr. Jonathan M. Webb, MA (Cantab).

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Throughout study leave, supervised study rooms will be available providing an opportunity and a space in school for silent independent revision. A timetable detailing the rooms will be published daily at Reception, in the Pastoral Centre and in the foyer. This has already been emailed to students by Mr Auger. Students must sign in at Reception by 9.00am, and will then be able to use the library until the study rota commences at 9.15am. Full uniform is expected and students should then follow the normal school day timings. **Once signed in, students should only sign out to go home – they are not permitted to leave site for any other reason.**

Throughout study leave, teachers may be available at their normal lesson times up to May half term should any student wish to seek subject advice or guidance during study leave. It would be advisable if they contacted their teachers in advance to check on the teacher's availability.

Students completing examinations will not need to sign in (the examinations register will notify us that students are on site) and they will have 15 minutes to leave site after examinations unless they intend to stay. If they do decide to stay, **students must sign in at Reception and utilise the study rooms**, following the guidance outlined above. Students revising on site will be able to use the canteen at morning break and lunchtime, conditional on them having funds in their ParentPay account. They will go in first for lunch.

We hope that you welcome this information and that the guidance is clear. We appreciate your support in helping us to ensure that Year 11 begin their study leave in a positive and pleasant way, as has been the case in recent years.

Contingency Days

JCQ have scheduled contingency days for this series of exams. The final one of these is 26th June 2024. Students must be available up to and including this date. The contingency days will only be used if there is an announcement from the exam boards and JCQ that schools and colleges need to use them.

Examination Punctuality and Preparedness

Please refer to the attached GCSE Examinations 2024 Student Guide for details of the exam regulations and procedures. Candidates must arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the start time of their examination. If you experience difficulties during the examination period (e.g. illness, injury, personal problems), please inform school at the earliest possible opportunity so that we can help or advise you. In this situation, please call Reception and email dalej@ripongrammar.com and absence@ripongrammar.com

Results Day 2024

GCSE results day is Thursday 22 August 2024

Results envelopes will be available from the 6th Form Centre from 8am and will also be emailed at around 8am to all students' RGS email addresses. Later that day results will also be emailed to parents. If you require someone else to collect your results envelope for you, this request must be sent to Mrs Dale in writing. Support will be available on site if any students wish to discuss their results. Details surrounding any appeals will be provided with these results. If you are holding an

offer at Ripon Grammar School, we would like you to contact the school at the earliest opportunity on the day to inform us of your decision about your place.

Finally, I would like to wish each of our Year 11 students every success for these exams and their future aspirations.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at hoy11@ripongrammar.com

Thank you in advance for your continued support during this important time.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Hewison
Acting Head of Year 11