



20 September 2021

Dear Parents,

This year all Year 11 students will have important decisions to make about their futures. We will be encouraging them to think carefully about their options this term so that they can make well-informed, realistic decisions in the Spring term.

School has arranged for all Year 11 students to meet with a professional and experienced Careers Adviser, Mrs Louise Howard, who will provide impartial careers guidance, advice and information on a range of academic courses, careers and opportunities.

She will help your son or daughter to:

- consider all their options including sixth form, college, apprenticeships, traineeships and university
- consider suitable qualifications which can be NVQs and other work based qualifications, T Levels, BTECs, A levels, Applied A levels, Foundation Degrees, HNDs and Degrees
- understand the entry requirements for courses and apprenticeships
- work out what they want to do if they aren't yet sure
- have the confidence to achieve their goals in life
- take control of their future plans and turn their ideas into reality
- understand that ideas can change and develop as they get older, gain more qualifications and experience

In their appointment with the Careers Adviser, students will be supported to make a decision for themselves and to create a realistic plan of action relating to their career ideas. We recognise that parents are keen to be involved in this process and the attached Careers Information Sheet is intended as a resource for both Year 11 students and their parents to refer to at home.

The programme of careers appointments will take place over the Autumn and early Spring terms and every student will be allocated an individual 40 minute interview, which will be notified to your son or daughter.

Tutors and the Careers Department will also be working with form groups during tutorial time to ensure that students understand how to research the courses and careers options available to them, using our excellent on-line resources to explore career areas. Students will also learn how to make informed career decisions in relation to labour market information.

Students will also have an opportunity to talk to Year 12 and 13 students within an A Level Fair, held in school in December, about what it is like to study particular A levels at RGS.

In addition, Year 11 students will participate in an Exploring Pathways and Apprenticeships event in February 2022, providing an opportunity to learn about the different career and study routes available. For those currently interested in finding out more about apprenticeships, students have also been invited to attend a UK University and Apprenticeship Fair in October.

Students are encouraged to visit the Careers Department and to use the lunchtime 'drop-ins' to chat about options and career plans, in addition to browsing the many resources which we have available. Students can of course also contact an external careers adviser through the National Careers Service, for which there is a link on our website:
<http://www.ripongrammar.co.uk/academic/careers>

We also hope that you will be able to attend the Virtual Higher Education Evening on 8th March 2022, when representatives from universities, both UK and abroad, will be present and able to offer careers information and guidance. Details of this will be sent out to all parents nearer to the time.

A further Careers Evening will be held in school on 6th April 2022, when employers from a diverse range of industries and services will be able to chat with you and your children about possible careers in which they may be interested. Once again, details will be available at a later date.

A 6th Form Open Evening will be held at the end of January 2022 (date to be confirmed), when both students and parents will be invited to attend presentations on subject choices and to learn about the process of applying to the Sixth Form at Ripon Grammar School.

Should there be any concerns about achieving the requirements for entry to the Sixth Form, it is very important for students to have a suitable back-up plan in place. In order to keep their options open, students can apply to more than one school or college and decide where to take up a place once their GCSE results are known, and Mrs Howard will be assisting students with their plans during their individual guidance appointments.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Jill Locke

Head of Careers

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