



# Ripon Grammar School

12 July 2023

## Year 9 – September 2023

Dear Parents/ Guardians

As we enter the final weeks of term, I wanted to message about some exciting news: very soon we share the new Y9 forms with all students.

It is a well-established tradition at Ripon Grammar School that we welcome new entrants to the school at the start of Y9 and in doing so we move from four form groups, to five. I would like to stress that the new forms are thought about very carefully. As I have reminded students throughout recent assemblies, the new forms are organised around the dynamics of learning, and not around friendships. I have worked hard to create form groups that are sympathetic to existing friendships, but an element of change will be an inevitable feature of your child's new form.

Students should be well set to see this as an opportunity and not a threat. Throughout this year during form time we have focussed on building resilience, having a growth mindset and developing empathy with others. These are all skills that will be needed to view change as a positive and to support peers in September. Natural cycles of renewal and change are all around us and education is no exception. Instances such as this are great preparation for life, and I hope that if needed, you can share this sentiment during discussions with your child.

In addition, I would just like to confirm one thing that will not be changing next year: I will be continuing my role as the Head of Year for this cohort. From September, I will be Head of Year 9 and I look forward to seeing our young people transition into Y9 and beyond, building on their many successes this year. Together with my tutor team, we will be actively supporting new forms to settle and build strong working relationships. We will work hard to maximise learning outcomes and balance those with happy and healthy personal development.

As ever, I can be contacted by email at [hoy8@ripongrammar.com](mailto:hoy8@ripongrammar.com) May I take this opportunity to also wish you a happy and restful summer. We look forward to seeing all students again in September.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Harding Head of Year 8**

*Founded in Saxon Times, re-founded in 1555*

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