



Ripon Grammar School

To all parents of students in First Form (Year 7)

Thursday 25th May, 2023

Dear Parents,

Visit to Richmond and Middleham castles – Wednesday 21st June – (cost: £10 via ParentPay)

The History Department have organised a day visit to Richmond Castle and Middleham Castle for all pupils in the First Year. This visit will allow pupils to experience two of the best-preserved historic structures in England and complement their study of how the changing nature of castle design sheds light on the changing nature of English history itself.

The morning will be spent at Richmond Castle, a fantastic example of an early, Norman-era stone keep castle. Middleham, by contrast, reached the height of its status and development in a later era, during the time of the 'War of the Roses' and the reign of its most famous owner, King Richard III. Time at the castles will give pupils opportunity to understand better the original purpose, design and changing history of both locations. Insights derived from the visit will then be developed in history lessons back in the classroom, with all pupils ultimately undertaking their own castle design from a particular era of English history.

Both castles are cared for by English Heritage and educational visits of this nature to their sites are free-of-charge. The trip cost therefore simply covers coach travel between the venues throughout the day. Parents are requested to **please pay a £10 voluntary contribution online via ParentPay by Friday 9th June**. ParentPay will also allow you to confirm permission for them to attend. The trip will be cancelled if insufficient funds are collected. Financial assistance for those claiming certain benefits is available, please contact the school Finance Office for confidential advice.

Students will not have to wear school uniform but they should ensure they dress comfortably, with sensible footwear essential given the uneven surfaces underfoot within the castles. They should prepare for the kind of warm, wet or mixed weather typical of the great British summer. All pupils will also need to **bring a packed lunch** (not containing nuts, in the interests of any pupils with allergies) and adequate drinking water. The trip is intended to occur entirely within normal school hours, meaning that travel arrangements to and from school should not need to be altered. We will leave soon after 9am and return in good time for the usual end of the school day.

Thank you for your support in preparing for what I am certain will be a worthwhile and memorable visit.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Bruce (History Department)