



# Ripon Grammar School

**From the Headmaster**

20 December 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

As always this has been a very busy term and no doubt after 15 weeks, we are all ready for a well-earned break.

The final weeks have been as hectic as ever, none more so than for our talented musicians who have entertained students and parents alike in assemblies, the Christmas Concert and of course our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols held at the Cathedral on Tuesday. Thank you to all parents and friends who were able to support the choral and brass ensembles in their wonderful and festive performance. The music was as high a quality as ever and our thanks go to Mr Barker and Mrs Morpeth for their hard work in making the service such a success. The Dean, in his final address, marvelled at this event which sets the school apart and is something we should support and cherish. As he reflected, one should never take 'anything for granted'.

As always, alongside the academic work which goes on day after day, it is the extras – sporting success, debating, a full range of trips and societies, house drama and of course charity week to name but a few - which develop that all-round character and sense of community. Well done to the School Officers who have worked tirelessly for this year's charity, Médecins sans Frontières. Please don't forget to support this cause though your donations via parent pay as part of our Christmas Jumper Day today.

The Friends also organised a very successful ball which raised over £9,000 for IT development and we look forward to their Burns' Night on 25 January. The Friends are also funding to the tune of £6,000 a new kiln for the art department which will be installed soon. We must all continue to thank them for their tireless work. If you would like to join the Friends and support the school, please do contact Ruth Curtis [curtisr@ripongrammar.com](mailto:curtisr@ripongrammar.com) as their work is so important to the school and they always need more support.

Finally, we are saying goodbye today to Mr Dave Rudland, head of DT, who has served the school with distinction for 22 years and led the department with great heart; he hands it over in a strong position to Mr Dan Owen who joins us in January from St John Fisher's School in Harrogate. We look forward also to the arrival of Mr Matthew Jones in January who will be teaching Spanish and French.

I would like to wish all member of the RGS community a restful Christmas break and a happy New Year.

**Jonathan Webb**  
**Headmaster**

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

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