



Ripon Grammar School

17 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope that your child has settled into life at Ripon Grammar School and is enjoying the exciting new opportunities and challenges that secondary school has to offer.

As part of the induction process the students have a rich and varied programme of form time activities and PSHCEe (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education) lessons. During these sessions they will be covering topics including anti-bullying, rights and responsibilities and respecting differences.

In addition to the timetabled lessons, we also deliver an informative assembly programme that aims to educate all students in how to stay safe and make the correct choices. Over the coming term, we have a carefully curated programme of assemblies covering a range of important subjects involving external speakers who are experts in these areas.

On Wednesday 18 September, we have a medical professional coming in to school to talk to Years 7-9 on the dangers of vaping and the impact this has on health and wellbeing. This assembly was delivered within RGS last year and was well received by the students. Our aim is to educate students so they can make the right choices and understand the risks they would be taking if they were tempted to experiment with vaping.

All secondary schools in North Yorkshire have a Police School Liaison Officer. The Liaison Officer works closely with their schools to support students and help educate them about the risks that can be encountered in the local area. During October, our School Liaison Officer (Martin Powell) will be in school to deliver three assemblies on the following topics:

- Sexting
- Knife crime
- One punch kills

These assemblies have also been presented to students in our school community and Martin presents the topics in a sensitive and supportive way. The focus is on ensuring students have appropriate knowledge and understanding of the issues so that they can again make informed decisions to keep themselves and others safe.

Founded in Saxon Times, re-founded in 1555

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On Monday 4 November at 6.30pm you will have an opportunity to come in to school to meet Martin Powel when he will share the content of the assemblies, so that if you feel it is appropriate, you can discuss the issues with your child. I will be sending more details out about the evening later this half term.

Whilst we recognize that it is, thankfully, rare for Year 7 students to be involved in such activities, we believe it is important from a safeguarding perspective that these topics are discussed openly and knowledgeably during their induction programme.

I appreciate that these themes are extremely sensitive but please rest assured that the Form Tutors and Head of Year will be following up on the content of the assemblies and will be there to offer support to any students who require intervention following any of the presentations.

Best wishes

Mrs H Keelan-Edwards
Deputy Head teacher and DSL

Mrs E Hewison
Acting Head of Year 7 and Deputy DSL

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