



Assistant Head [Boarding] & Senior House Parent

School Information

The School

Ripon Grammar School is one of a small group of selective co-educational state boarding and day schools. As a place of learning and as a community of individuals, it is unique. Re-founded in 1555 we have served our local community ever since. We are a community school with most of our day students coming from the school's catchment area.

Set in extensive and beautiful grounds at the heart of the historic city of Ripon, and with just over 920 students, we are big enough to challenge, but small enough to know each student by name and we pride ourselves on fostering a strong and caring school community within which every individual can thrive. There are just under 90 full time equivalent staff, both teaching and non-teaching. Boarding inevitably contributes to the vibrant nature and diversity of the school, adding to the feeling of belonging our students so often display.

Rated outstanding by Ofsted for both boarding and education, academic results and 'value added' progress are exceptionally strong at both A Level and GCSE; a testimony to both the hard work of students and the high calibre of teaching. Many of our students go on to study at some of the most competitive universities in the country. We do much to encourage leadership and personal development, all underpinned by a strong set of core values.

The Leadership Team

The Assistant Head [Boarding] would join an existing Strategic Leadership Team that is highly experienced, cohesive and clearly focused on school improvement. The team currently comprises Headmaster, Deputy Head [Pastoral] who is currently Head of Boarding, Deputy Head [Curriculum], Deputy Head [Teaching and Learning], and Assistant Head [Sixth Form].

In addition to the SLT, the Strategic Development Team meets fortnightly and is responsible for delivering the Strategic Development Plan. Membership of this is currently the SLT, Inclusion Manager [SENCO] and Head of Upper School.

Boarding at Ripon Grammar School

People often assume we are an independent school. We're not. Unlike private schools, our education comes free, with boarding typically costing one third of independent school fees.

The same selective criteria are used for boarding and day students. All boarding applicants must hold a British, EU or EEA passport. The majority of our boarders board weekly and are resident in the Yorkshire region. However, we have some 15 termly boarders who herald from the Caribbean, the Middle East, Nigeria, Spain and the South East of England. The current boarding capacity is 100 places with plans to increase the number of boarders to 120 over the coming three years and encourage more termly boarding.

There are two boarding houses, Johnson House for the girls and School House for the boys, which provide a warm, supportive and caring background for the educational development of our boarders. The houses each have comfortable accommodation in a lovely setting in the 23 acres of school grounds.

Each house has its own team of staff led by a resident Senior House Parent. We employ a mixture of teaching and non-teaching staff in the boarding houses and a team of 12 staff work on a rota basis. We also annually recruit three resident gap students, of different nationalities, who live in the boarding houses and work both in the day school and in boarding.

Boarders' Personal Development

Whilst we are proud of the academic achievements of our boarders, which equal or outperform their day students counterparts according to the value added measure, we endeavour to ensure our boarders have the opportunity to access a wide range of opportunities to nurture their personal development. Boarders have their own programme of activities and access to the co-curricular programme of the school and the opportunity to take part in local clubs and engage with the community of Ripon. Leadership and participation in key groups such as the Boarders' Council and School Council is encouraged and our boarders have a real sense of belonging and being at the heart of the RGS community.

Extract from the statement of boarding principals and practice

'Being a boarder at Ripon Grammar School offers young people the opportunity to learn about themselves and other people. Boarders learn how to live and work with others and become part of a community. Boarders develop a strong sense of self and form strong friendships with their peers. Within a relatively small and caring community, they learn to manage themselves and get on confidently with other people. Boarders at Ripon Grammar School become part of an extended family and students from local, national and international areas bring an extra dimension to the school. Boarding gives students a sense of stability, self-belief and confidence which enables them to achieve their full potential both academically and socially.'

