



# The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form



Executive Headteacher: **Mrs L Walton** BA (Hons)

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Head of School: **Mr J de Rijk** BA (Hons)  
Deputy Headteacher: **Miss J Scattergood** BEd (Hons)  
Deputy Headteacher: **Mrs J Thawley** BSc (Hons)  
Assistant Headteacher: **Mr M Kirkland** BSc (Hons)

16 December 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I am writing to you to inform you that Mrs Walton, our current Executive Headteacher, has been successful in her application to become the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the East Midlands Education Trust (EMET), where she will specialise in secondary school standards and improvement. There are currently nine secondary schools in EMET, including John Flamsteed and The Ripley Academy. We are therefore delighted that we will be retaining Mrs Walton's expertise over our schools in her promoted post. The message that Mrs Walton is keen to relay is that she is not leaving but rather, taking on a broader role across the trust.

Although we are fortunate that we will retain Mrs Walton within our organisation, we will need to recruit a new Executive Headteacher to serve John Flamsteed Community School and The Ripley Academy. Due to headteacher contracts and periods of notice, the trust and the Governors will seek to appoint the new Executive Headteacher for September 2022.

I am very pleased to inform you that Mr David Bell will be our interim Executive Headteacher until the new Executive Headteacher is in post. Mr Bell is a vastly experienced and successful Headteacher having previously been the Headteacher of The Joseph Whitaker School, another of our trust schools. Latterly, he has been working as part of the trust's central team. Mr Bell will lead both schools determined to continue with the drive forward in standards for all students in our care.

I am sure that you will join me in congratulating Mrs Walton on her well-deserved promotion and that you will also warmly welcome the appointment of Mr Bell, the interim Executive Headteacher from 1 January 2022.

May I take this opportunity to wish all of you a peaceful Christmas time.

Yours sincerely

*P Harding*

Mr P Harding  
Chair of Governors

**The Ripley Academy, Peasehill, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3JQ.**