



The Ripley Academy

Excellence for All

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

Deputy Headteacher/Head of School: **Mr J de Rijk** BA (Hons)

19 July 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support with the education of your child over the last academic year.

There have been many changes over the last 12 months as we have said goodbye to Mrs Ayres and welcomed Mrs Walton as our new Head Teacher. When I think of the many positive experiences that our students have had this year, including sporting events, theatre trips, field trips, the many extra-curricular clubs put on by our staff and major trips such as the Barcelona and London visits, it makes me feel privileged to be working with such a professional and committed group of staff and such a fine cohort of students.

The 'above and beyond' commitment shown by teachers and staff at the school is ever present and Year 11 certainly benefitted from a whole range of extra tuition and mentoring that will, hopefully, have supported them to achieve their dreams in this year's GCSE results. We wait with baited breath for results not least because we will be able to gauge the level of challenge promised by the new 1-9 GCSEs in Maths and English. This will ultimately help us at getting even more adept at preparing students for a more rigorous and academic diet from Year 7.

In September we will be welcoming 127 new Year 7 students and these ever-increasing year group sizes are a testament to our growing reputation in the local area where our students are invariably seen conducting themselves well and wearing their uniform with pride.

All students will be back in school on Tuesday 5th September for their usual 8.40 am start. Please ensure that students have the correct uniform and equipment for the start of the academic year.

In brief, our expectations for uniform are as follows:

- school blazer with logo
- school tie (clip on)
- plain white collared shirt (long or short sleeve)
- plain black full length tailored trousers (or knee length skirts for the girls)
- plain black polishable shoes (no canvas, suede, pumps, trainers)
- optional school jumper
- plain coloured coat (not hoodies or sportswear)

All students will be expected to provide their own basic equipment in lessons such as pens x 2 (blue/black), pencils x 2, ruler, eraser and pencil sharpener. We feel it is imperative that students take responsibility for their own learning and arrive fully equipped for all lessons. A scientific calculator will be required for Maths lessons and these can be ordered through the school. Students should see their Student Support Co-ordinator if there are any genuine reasons why equipment cannot be supplied from home.

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Six weeks can prove to be a long time for some of our students so please find some information on summer activities on the following websites:

https://www.summer-schools.info/power_search.php?pflag=search®ion=east+midlands

<http://www.visitderby.co.uk/whats-on/school-summer-holidays>

Finally, I would like to invite parents and carers to the first of our half-termly informal meetings with the school leadership team on Thursday 7th September at 6 pm in The Hive. At this meeting we would like to present our new teaching, marking and behaviour policies, and provide the opportunity to discuss our most recent Ofsted report, which we anticipate to be published in early September.

I wish you all an excellent summer.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J de Rijk', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mr J de Rijk
Head of School