



The Ripley Academy

A member of the East Midlands Education Trust

www.ripleyacademy.org
01773 746334
enquiries@ripleyacademy.org

Headteacher: **Mrs L Walton** BA (Hons)
Headteacher/Head of School: **Mr J de Rijk** BA (Hons)
Deputy Headteacher: **Miss J Scattergood** (BED)

16 September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to give you an update on our progress at the Ripley Academy and to give you an outline of our plans for further continuous development this academic year.

Examination Results 2019

Mr de Rijk has already written to you to let you know that we were delighted with the progress that students made last year at GCSE and A level. Given the rate at which students had to cover, digest and understand new content and skills, I was thrilled that they all did so very well. 70% of our GCSE students achieved a higher pass in English and Maths – a true transformation in the achievement of our school and one which shall serve as a springboard to even greater progress and achievement next year and beyond.

Exercise Books

You should expect to see your child bring all of their exercise books to and from school this academic year. This is because we will be setting homework that will be more of a continuum from learning that takes place in school. I would also encourage you to look at your child's exercise books – you will see feedback from teaching staff along with current assessment grades which you may find helpful. Please could I also ask for your support when you are looking at your child's exercise books so that they always practise their best handwriting and that work is neat and tidy with dates and titles underlined.

Uniform

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the efforts that you make to ensure that your child has the correct uniform and that it is worn with pride? It is a joy to drive into work in the mornings and to see students arrive for school so smartly. A gentle reminder that nail varnish or embellishments are not permitted and that a student may only wear one stud earring in each ear.

Plans for 2019/20

The table below gives you a summary of how I would like to further develop our school over the next academic year.

Priority	Development
Lesson content in Years 7, 8 and 9 (KS3 curriculum).	I would like to see all departments review what they are teaching, especially in Years 7 and 8 so that we can be assured that our teaching and learning plans have content which is challenging, interesting and relevant to the wider world. I'd like to see students given different tasks to do according to their strengths and support required.
Marking and Feedback	I would like to see all worked marked by teachers so that students find it motivational and helpful. I would like to see all students routinely respond to feedback that teachers may give them about how they can improve their work further.

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

Priority	Development
Homework	I love homework (!) but I'd like homework to become less of a summary of what has been learnt and more preparatory work for a lesson to follow. Good homework routines are essential to establish from the outset in Year 7.
Development of the Sixth Form	I am thrilled to note that we have a much larger Y12 this year demonstrating that our Y11 students do see our school Sixth Form as the natural progression for them. With the appointment of more specialist teachers and a new Head of Sixth Form, I can only believe that our Sixth Form will continue to grow and become a beacon of excellence within our school. I'd like to repeat last year's success of placing students in the very best Universities (including Oxbridge) and highly competitive apprenticeships.
Parent and carer involvement in learning	I would like staff and parents and carers to feel that they can communicate about a child's work through the child's exercise book. For example, if a parent or carer would like the class teacher to know that their child tried very hard over a piece of homework, please feel able to write this in the exercise book. The more that home and school work together and support each other, the better the whole learning experience will be for the child.
Conduct	This year, we are going to continue our work on using formal language at school ('dress up your language for school') and we hope that all students will continue to use very good manners and speak respectfully to staff and each other alike at all times.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 18 September – Sixth Form UCAS Information Evening

Monday 23 September – Friday 27 September – Year 11 core mock examinations

Tuesday 24 September – Y6 Open Morning

Wednesday 25 September – Information evening for Year 10 and Year 11 (GCSE grades 6-9)

Wednesday 2 October – INSET day plus Open Evening for Y5/6 students, parents/carers and also current students and their parents/carers

Thursday 10 October – Celebration of Achievement Evening

Tuesday 15 October – Sixth Form Open Evening

Wednesday 16th October – KS3 High Prior Attaining students meeting (by invitation)

Monday 21 October – Friday 25 October – Year 11 'walking-talking' core mocks

Friday 25 October – Year 10 and Year 11 progress report home.

I hope that you find this letter useful and that you are as excited as I am about the year ahead. As always, please do contact us should you have any concerns about the quality of the service that we offer your child.

With my very best wishes

Yours sincerely



Mrs L J Walton

Executive Headteacher