



The Ripley Academy

A member of the East Midlands Education Trust

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

24 October 2019

Dear Students

I have been delighted with the progress that the school has made since half-term and I wanted to write to you to explain what further developments lie ahead.

Do you remember the assembly when I showed you an image of Antony Gormley's Angel of the North to get us thinking about what the word 'ambition' means? We also listened to Sheku Kanneh-Mason playing 'Hallelujah' to demonstrate what having 'excellence' in a skill might look like. I concluded this part of our assembly by confirming that I think that the vast majority of us show ambition and strive to achieve excellence – two of our key values – every single day. This is partly why you are getting a very good reputation both locally and further afield. I am very proud to be your Headteacher when I consider the progress that you have made with respect to these values.

The final images that I showed you included a picture called 'The Kiss' by Gustav Klimt and some contemporary public art by Banksy. These images represented 'humanity'. Demonstrating 'humanity' in our day to day lives is a crucial next step as we journey from a school based on rules (we do the right things because we have to) to a school based on values (we do the right things because it's part of who we are). Conducting ourselves with humanity means mutual respect, understanding and tolerance and being able to thrive in an environment that is free from discrimination or bullying in any form. It also means respecting and developing human intelligences such as the importance of using the right register of language to match the setting. At the Ripley Academy, we call this 'Dressing your Language Up for School'

Next half-term, I will be asking all members of our school community to focus on what it means to conduct ourselves with humanity. From seemingly small things that we do already such as being polite, holding doors open and saying 'Good morning' to creating a school and working environment where mutual respect permeates all that we do, this is the next step in the progress of our school. I call this moving from 'rules to values'.

To start this work, Mr de Rijk will begin by sharing his analysis of your student voice survey in the first assembly back after half-term. May I thank you for your responses to this; it's clear that many of you already understand what it means to conduct yourselves with 'humanity'. I am indeed, exceptionally proud to be your Headteacher.

I look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 4 November.

Mrs L J Walton

Executive Headteacher

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