



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)

20th December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

At The Ripley Academy we put a lot of importance in working in partnership with parents and carers in order to ensure the safety of our students at all times. We all know that the holidays can sometimes be a worrying time for parents/carers as your children have more time to engage in risky behaviour.

It is likely that some children will spend more time on the internet or gaming during the holidays when they have substantially more time to do so. Where possible, talk to your child about their internet use. Different children will have different amounts of knowledge, risk-taking and resilience. Please talk with them about what they like to do online, where they go and who they talk to.

The most important thing to remember is to put online networking into a real life context. For example, would you let your children be in a crowd of unknown adults who may be swearing, using sexual innuendo or other things inappropriate for children to see and hear?

- Consider the online games they are playing and what age the other players may be
- Do you know the age-rating of those games? Are your children playing 18-rated games such as Grand Theft Auto or Call of Duty?
- To find out what a game is like before you buy it for your child, you could go onto YouTube and do a search. It is likely there will be videos of people playing the game.
- What social networking apps are they using? What are they sharing and who with?
- Would you be happy with all of this in the real world?

If you have any immediate concerns for the safety of a child over the holidays, please contact either; Call Derbyshire (Derbyshire County Council Social Services) on 01629 533190 or First Contact (Derby City Council Social Services) on 01332 641172.

There are a number of helplines signposted on our school website under the Parents/Safeguarding section at the bottom of the page that you can refer to if needed.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to welcoming our students back into school on Monday 6th January 2020.

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

A message from Mrs Walton

May I finish this final letter of the calendar year by thanking all parents and carers for your invaluable support. I continue to feel blessed by the good fortune that I have in the work that I do and I am particularly humble to serve your community.

I wish you a very happy and safe Christmas holiday with every best wish for the New Year. Enjoy a little bit of down time with your loved ones and some old fashioned Christmas cheer.

*"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."
— Charles Dickens*

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Scattergood', written in a cursive style.

Miss J Scattergood
Deputy Headteacher