



East Midlands
Education Trust

The West Bridgford School
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Mr R McDonough
Chief Executive

March 2020

Dear Parents

Ripley Academy OfSTED inspection

Today you will be in receipt of the school's OfSTED report, following an inspection on 4-5th February. As you will see, Ripley Academy has been judged to be a good school and consequently it no longer requires special measures. I am sure you will be as delighted as we are with this news. This OfSTED judgement has only been possible because of a great deal of hard work by the staff and students of the school over a sustained period of time and I would very much like to pay tribute to them for their endeavours. This is a just reward for their determination to make Ripley a really good place to work and to study.

Despite the challenges the school has faced over the last few years, we have been fortunate enough to count on your support, the parents of the school. You never deserted your local school and instead worked with us to make the school better. As well as being a good school Ripley Academy is ranked 11th out of 83 Derbyshire schools in the latest performance tables and is the highest performing secondary school in the area. Now I believe you have a school to be proud of.

Whilst praising our staff and students, I would also wish to highlight the work of two people in particular who have helped make this all possible, Mrs Walton the executive head teacher and Mr Harding the chair of governors. Mrs Walton has undoubtedly been instrumental in steering the school to this outcome and she is an exceptionally talented school leader whom we are fortunate to have in our service. Mr Harding has also been generous in the time he has given for the school, has shown exceptional leadership qualities and has been very well supported by his fellow governors. It is worth remembering that he and all of our governors are unpaid volunteers and without their vital support a school cannot function and this success would not have been possible.

Finally, I am pleased to say that the future for the school now looks extremely bright. Applications to the school both in year 7 and at post 16 are at their highest level for over a decade; this is the surest sign of the confidence parents have in us. In return all of the staff and governors of the school are determined to build on the solid platform we have now created in order to ensure the school goes from strength to strength in the coming years.

Yours sincerely

R. McDonough

Chief Executive

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The Ripley Academy

The West Bridgford School

Hollywell Primary School

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South Wolds Academy