



The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form

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



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18 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you to give you an update regarding latest advice from Public Health England (PHE) regarding the Coronavirus.

The main messages from PHE are:

- if you live alone and you have symptoms of coronavirus illness (COVID-19), however mild, stay at home for **7 days** from when your symptoms started
- if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for **14 days**.
- it is likely that people living within a household will infect each other or be infected already. Staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community
- for anyone in the household who starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for 7 days from when the symptoms appeared, regardless of what day they are on in the original 14-day isolation period.
- if you can, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period
- if you cannot move vulnerable people out of your home, stay away from them as much as possible

Additionally, if you have coronavirus symptoms:

- do **not** go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital
- you do not need to contact 111 to tell them you're staying at home
- testing for coronavirus is not needed if you're staying at home
- plan ahead and ask others for help to ensure that you can successfully stay at home and consider what can be done for vulnerable people in the household
- ask your employer, friends and family to help you to get the things you need to stay at home
- wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds, each time using soap and water, or use hand sanitiser
- if you feel you cannot cope with your symptoms at home, or your condition gets worse, or your symptoms do not get better after 7 days, then use the [NHS 111 online](https://www.nhs.uk/111) coronavirus service. If you do not have internet access, call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

As for school, we are currently operating a full service. There have been no reports of any confirmed cases of Coronavirus for staff or students to date. Some staff in high risk groups are working from home (self-isolating) and some students are also following advice to self-isolate. I shall communicate with you should our service be further compromised.

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

Should you have a child at home who is self-isolating, we do not however, have capacity to set work for them. Whilst I understand that this will be frustrating, I am sure that you will understand that using any spare capacity to keep our school fully open with a full service for those who are without symptoms and fit for school, currently about 88% of the student population, is a priority. However, there will be a whole host of online resources that your child can access to help them keep abreast of their studies if they are well.

In the event of an enforced school closure, teachers have already planned to upload two weeks' work to our homework platform. For Year 11 this will also include a limited marking service. If staff remain well, they will work from home and we will do our very best to keep any disruption to your child's education to a minimum.

May I thank you for your on-going support and understanding at this time. My staff and I will endeavour to do our very best to guide you and to prioritise your child's welfare and education as is always the case.

I shall continue to do my very best to lead the school through these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely

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

Mrs L J Walton

Executive Headteacher