



The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form

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



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Head of School: **Mr J de Rijk** BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher: **Miss J Scattergood** BEd (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher: **Mrs J Thawley** BSc (Hons)

20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Please find attached to this letter a copy of the assembly that I led for all students yesterday.

I hope that the content is clear. I tried to strike a balance between telling the students what was happening, what was possibly on the horizon and a sense that it will be 'business as usual' before too long. I have said that they do not need to be frightened but that they do need to follow what the Government are asking us to do.

For Years 11 and 13, I hope that they have had the reassurance from me that they will get their qualifications; in my view, they have done the work, finished courses and therefore are due their grades. Just the tiny bit at the end that we're missing. I have also assured them that leavers' events will happen but perhaps not until the Autumn term.

My staff have been incredible over this past week and I know that they will do all they can to ensure that our educational and support service will continue for as long as we can. You will soon receive a reading list of recommended comfort reads for students and adults; I do hope you will look at the 'staff/adult' recommendations and find something that might be enjoyable too.

During the next two weeks, I have asked the students to think like they are still in school but just working from home. Work will be set on the school's homework platform for the next two weeks lesson-by-lesson. This must be completed providing your child is well.

That will get us to the Easter holidays and we shall take stock of where we are then. Please rest assured that we will continue to provide an education service – particularly to Year 10 and Year 12 who are half-way through their GCSE/BTEC/A levels courses for as long as we need to.

Above all, I have been struck by how wonderful your children are. They have demonstrated true leadership qualities of 'calmness and kindness' this week and have made a tricky week so much easier than it could have been. I have felt carried by them.

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

It is clear that the weeks ahead will be a challenge for us all. However, please do remember the Persian saying, 'This too shall pass'. And it shall.

I shall write to you periodically to keep you abreast of where we are. In the meantime, should you wish to contact me, please do so through Mrs Hampton, hamptonj@ifcs.org.uk.

*'Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood.
Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less'*
Marie Curie

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L J Walton'.

Mrs L J Walton
Executive Headteacher

SCHOOL CLOSURE

STUDENT BRIEFING

WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2020

“Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an Ocean.”

~ Ryunosuke Satoro ~



UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

**‘Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may be fearless’
Marie Curie**



<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/live/2020/mar/18/uk-coronavirus-live-boris-johnson-pmq-cbi-urges-government-pay-businesses-directly-saying-350bn-loan-grant-package-not-enough>

The Prime Minister's Statement

‘After schools shut their doors on Friday, they will remain closed for the vast majority of pupils until further notice’

‘The objective is to slow the spread of the virus and we judge that this is the right moment to do that’

‘We need key workers to be able to go to work’

‘This does mean that exams will not take place as planned in May and June ‘though we will make sure the pupils get the qualifications that they need and deserve for their academic career’

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

- ❖ You will continue as normal, with the very highest standards until we finish tomorrow.
- ❖ Your teachers will give you all your exercise books so that you can work from home
- ❖ You have a letter from me explaining how you will be set work for the next two weeks
 - ❖ Some of you will be asked to attend school
- ❖ You will be sent a reading list via email with all sorts of books that you can download
 - ❖ You are now called to be leaders

YEAR 11 AND YEAR 13

Statement from the Exam Boards

As you've probably heard by now, the government has announced that schools across the UK will close until further notice, and this summer's exams won't go ahead.

I want you to know that, over the coming months, we'll be working tirelessly with schools, regulators and government to make sure young people who were due to take exams this summer still achieve the qualifications they need to progress to the next stage of their lives – and that all the hard work our students and teachers have already put in is properly rewarded.

This – like the coronavirus itself – is an unprecedented situation for all of us. But our commitment to helping young people to realise their potential hasn't changed, and never will.

Sample work; moderated predicted grades [already collected from behind the scenes]; leaving event; coursework; post 16 or post 18 plans; email will be set up to your HOS for enquiries and support.



MY ADVICE TO MY FAMILY (BOTH TO TOM AND ART AND TO ALL OF YOU)

Protect those who are 70+
Practice social distancing
Self-isolate if you have symptoms
Do not watch too much news
Take your news from a reputable source
Keep busy for the next 4 weeks; volunteer; work experience;
community
Think about what a 'lock down' might mean and prepare for this
Trust the experts
Exercise outside
Stay in touch with everyone
SHOW LEADERSHIP THROUGH CALMNESS AND KINDNESS
Beware those who will exploit and be safe
Remember: all will return to normal



YOU ARE STILL IN OUR CARE

You will be able to contact school through enquiries@

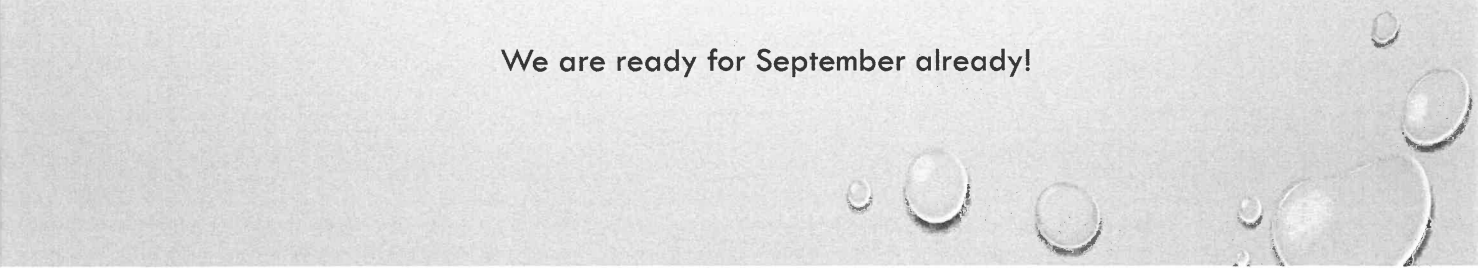
Lots of staff will still be working at school for the next few weeks

School will write to you and send you updates

Teachers will still help you if they can via email

We're still here - just not in the same way

We are ready for September already!





WE ARE
Stronger
TOGETHER

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2v895MJWyY>