



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)

24 March 2020

Dear Students

You may have heard the latest instructions for the Government that were issued by the Prime Minister in yesterday's televised address.

These are that you should **only** leave your homes for one of four reasons

1. Infrequent food and medicine shopping.
2. One form of exercise a day such as a run, walk or cycle – to be done **only** with people that you live with and not with your friends or other family members
3. A medical need
4. Travelling to and from work but **only** where work cannot be done at home

If you have a garden or an enclosed outside space, you can go outside and use that as much as you wish to for fresh air.

Some of the media are reporting this as a 'lockdown'. Please remember my assembly last week; a 'lockdown' is strange but not frightening. What this means is that if we stop people from moving around as much as possible, then we will spread the transmission of the virus over a longer period of time which will ensure that our health services do not become overwhelmed. By following the Government's new instructions in addition to continuing to practise **social distancing and regularly washing your hands**, you will be saving someone's life.

In the coming days or weeks, there may be further restrictions placed upon our movements but please do not become scared or anxious; this is all part of a plan to reduce the spread of the virus, at the right time, and save lives.

Most of your teachers are now working from home and I am told that they are enjoying setting lots of work for you to do. You really do need to get on with 'home-schooling' now and ensure that you do not fall behind. I have also asked some of my senior staff to keep in contact with you to check that you are ok – don't be surprised if you get a 'phone call or a letter from one of them.

Please keep an eye on the school's website where all letters will be uploaded.

I really miss you all but I know that you will live out the values of our school of kindness and calmness in the coming weeks and I look forward to seeing you all again before too long. Mr de Rijk will be in touch shortly with advice on how to establish a good home-school routine. You never know, he may even upload a fitness video 😊

Keep positive and continue to be exemplary role models by staying at home, protecting the NHS and saving lives.

Mrs Walton
Headteacher
Cv Parents and Carers

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