



# 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)

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As we approach the Easter holiday I'd like to reflect upon what has been one of the strangest school terms that I have encountered in 22 years of teaching. Had somebody mentioned back in February that by Easter all public exams would be cancelled, that teachers and students would be doing online learning from home and that people would be directed to keep to their homes, I would have found it impossible to believe. And yet here we are, by and large coping with this new way of doing things.

I would like to offer my reassurance to our outgoing Year 11 and Year 13 students, many of whom I know are bitterly disappointed that they won't get to test themselves in their exams after all of their hard work. I can assure them that we are working hard behind the scenes, following Ofqual's guidance to ensure they get the exam grades that they deserve. Further details can be found in the letter from Ofqual for Year 11, Year 12 English and Maths GCSE resit and Year 13 students from the Department for Education.

I hope for all of you that things are going as well as can be expected and I would like to thank you for supporting your children in their education at this difficult and unprecedented time. I know my staff have worked very hard to set suitable learning tasks and mark and return all work that is submitted. We are now really counting on you to help us ensure that students do the work set and don't fall behind; there is a danger that gaps may open up in their learning that may be hard to fill later.

School will only be open over the Easter holiday for the urgent childcare of frontline keyworkers that has already been pre-booked through our systems. Teachers will also be on their break until April 20<sup>th</sup>.

May I offer you assurances that we will keep you updated with any developments regarding any issues relating to schooling and education once the new term starts again on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

If you need any safeguarding support over the Easter break please contact Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190, as is usual practice during a school holiday. For an emergency, where you need to contact the Head of School, please email [enquiries@ripleyacademy.org](mailto:enquiries@ripleyacademy.org). This email inbox will be monitored twice daily during the school break from where the enquiry will be triaged.

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

NHS advice for staying at home is as follows:

*“Everyone must stay at home to help stop the spread of coronavirus.*

*You should only leave the house for very limited purposes:*

- *shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible*
- *one form of exercise a day, for example a run, walk, or cycle – alone or with members of your household*
- *any medical need, including to donate blood, avoid or escape risk of injury or harm, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person*
- *travelling for work purposes, but only where you cannot work from home”*

Finally, I hope you and your family stay well over Easter, a time traditionally of new beginnings and new hope; something that is particularly relevant in the current circumstances.

Yours sincerely



Mr J de Rijk

Head of School