



The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form

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13 May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Coronavirus – Reopening of Schools

You may have heard the Government announce that the 'phased removal of lockdown' has begun and that there are plans for schools to open to some students over the coming two months. In a document I received from the Department for Education yesterday, there was mention of a phased return for Year 10 and Year 12 students starting from 1 June and into July. There was no reference to the students in Years 7-9.

However, I am currently awaiting further guidance and I am not in a position to give you any further information on how we might be able to start a phased return to school for some students whilst keeping everyone safe, which must, of course, remain our priority. I will write to you as soon as I have examined all the guidance available; I am certainly expecting a lot more to reach my inbox in the coming days.

In the meantime, I have asked teachers to carry on for the next few weeks as if nothing has changed and I would like students to do the same; please continue to engage with your online learning and please do feel able to contact your teachers for help and feedback via email, as you have been doing. All of you, parents and students alike, must feel able to contact us at school for support with home-learning but also for support in the form of reassurance. We must, at times like these, look after each other.

Finally, to my wonderful students, you are going to have to dig deep now. When this is all over and we are back to school, whenever that might be and however that might look, please rest assured that you have teachers who will stop at nothing to ensure that this period of time is nothing more than a blip and that your education will not suffer. Please remember that you do not have to be alone; contact school even if you'd like a chat with a member of staff about worries or anxieties that you may have. We are here for you.

So, for now, my message is to carry on as we have been doing, listen to and follow the Government advice about washing hands and maintaining social distancing as this will keep you safe and get plenty of fresh air.

With my very best wishes.
Yours sincerely

Mrs L J Walton
Executive Headteacher

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