



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)

18 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

The issues of schools reopening are dominating the headlines at present and so I wanted to write to you to keep you informed that I am still awaiting full secondary school guidance before I can confirm plans for returning students from Year 10 and Year 12 to school. May I thank you for your patience and on-going support in this matter.

However, as more parents and carers return to work, please may I remind you that school is open for children of key workers in all year groups. Should you require a place, please contact Mrs Maycock - dmaycock@ripleyacademy.org to organise this. Due to planning purposes, children of key workers cannot simply turn up to school, but must be booked in with Mrs Maycock, in advance, by 4pm the preceding day at the latest.

The school has been open throughout bank holidays and Easter holidays from the end of March and several of you have made use of this service for childcare purposes. However, during the next half-term break, the week beginning 25 May, I would like to close the school to staff and students to allow for professional deep cleaning to take place. Please contact Mrs Maycock if this poses a problem for you; I am sure that we will be able to find a solution if we need to.

I hope to confirm with you before the end of the week arrangements for a phased return for Year 10 and Year 12. For students in Years 7-9, it looks highly unlikely that they will return to school before the end of the academic year. This does worry me somewhat as I think that online learning can only deliver so much. Therefore, I have asked Mrs Thawley and a team of staff to concentrate on the offer to these year groups from June and into July so that we can keep our younger students engaged and learning all the way until the summer holidays.

Finally, in preparation for a return to school, may I ask you to talk to your child about hand hygiene and social distancing in a school setting; it's going to be an interesting dynamic to get right but whatever we implement at school, it will be completely dependent upon the students themselves taking personal responsibility, which I know that they will endeavour to do, with our guidance.

I shall write to you this week with updated plans. In the meantime, please may I thank you for all you have done to support your child with their online learning; knowing that you have been so proactive about doing so has certainly carried my staff and I through this uncertain period. We are exceptionally grateful for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L J Walton

Headteacher

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