



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)

1 June 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Welcome back to the final half-term of this very strange academic year. I hope that you all managed to switch off a little over the half-term and that you and your loved ones are in good health. I continue to think about you all and to plan, with my senior staff, a remote learning curriculum that will ensure that students can make the maximum progress possible under these circumstances.

Update – School opening for some Year 10/ Year 12 students from 15 June 2020

The Department for Education has now issued me with guidance for opening the school for up to 25% of Year 10 and Year 12 students from 15 June. I am preparing for this as follows:

Week beginning 1 June – generic risk assessments, staff safety training, preparing the school to meet with all the guidelines as published in the Government’s guidance to Headteachers and enhancing the interactivity of the remote learning offer for all year groups.

Week beginning 8 June – specific risk assessments, student safety training, designing a study programme for those in school from 15 June and preparing resources for the week beginning 15 June. During this week, groups of Year 10/ Year 12 students will be contacted directly by Mr de Rijk with an offer of some on site learning. These will help us to ascertain where problems may lie. For example, it is unlikely that school transport will be running by the 15 June and therefore it will be helpful for us to know which families will find this a barrier to returning to school. For Year 10/Year 12 students who do not return to school when allocated a session, for whatever reason, they will continue to be set high quality online learning so that a student does not miss out.

I have assigned the following senior staff with the following tasks:

Enhancing the remote learning offer* for all year groups from Y7 - 9 – Mrs Thawley, Deputy Headteacher

Designing a programme for 25% Year 10/Year 12 students in school plus enhancing the remote learning offer for these year groups – Mr de Rijk, Head of School

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

***Enhancing the remote learning offer**

My senior staff and I have been working with Heads of Department to develop our online learning for all year groups so that there is greater interaction with the teacher and small groups of students. This is complicated given that not all students have access to webcams and audio but we are committed to ensuring that the next seven weeks represent a step up in our efforts to support students as best we can. The Heads of House will also look to getting small groups of students 'together' remotely either with them or their tutor so that we can offer a high quality pastoral care service too.

Childcare for children of keyworkers/ other children who may benefit

Thank you so much to all of you who managed to find alternative childcare over the half-term break so that I could close the school for deep cleaning and the fitting of multiple hand sanitising stations across school. It really did help. I am most grateful for your support and represents all I have come to love about working with you; a mutual commitment to working together whatever life throws at us. From 1 June, childcare for these children can now continue and can be booked, in the usual way, via Mrs Maycock - dmaycock@ripleyacademy.org before 4pm the preceding day.

Year 10 and Year 12

Mr de Rijk will be writing to Year 10 and Year 12 students in due course with precise details of a programme for onsite study from 15 June. We will also issue a training programme for students which parents and carers will, of course, have sight of. The detail will be exact. For example, students will not be required to wear uniform for the remainder of this term as we must advise that clothes worn during the day are cleaned in the evening. It is far easier to launder a T-shirt and jeans than a full school uniform. Staff will also be advised to wear professional dress but without items that are not easily laundered such as ties and jackets.

Finally, may I provide you with my utmost reassurance that every possible step will be taken to meet with Government guidelines and that the school will not open to students from 15 June if the Governors and I do not assess the school site as meeting with these regulations. Nothing is more important than the safety and welfare of you, staff and students and I will not compromise on this.

May I pass on my very best wishes for the coming few weeks; these are anxious times for all of us as we navigate new guidance from central Government. However, the key messages for beating Coronavirus remain unchanged: practice good hand hygiene, keep two metres apart from someone not in your own household, catch all coughs and sneezes into the crook of your arm or better, into a disposable tissue, and isolate with all of your household if someone displays symptoms.

Thank you for being with me on this journey. I will continue to serve you all to the very best of my ability.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L J Walton
Executive Headteacher