



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)

12 June 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As we continue to prepare for students from Year 10 and Year 12 to return to school, albeit in a limited way, from Monday 15 June, I thought that you would find it helpful to have a further update.

We have now completed all of our risk assessments for the wider opening of school in line with the guidance received from the Department for Education. These have been approved by the school's Chair of Governors and the Safeguarding/Health and Safety governor and the Trust. Copies of these have also been sent to our trade union partners.

I have conducted thorough site walks with my senior team and I am satisfied that the school complies with all prescribed measures. Mr de Rijk will have operational responsibility for the application of all risk assessments.

With respect to online learning, which remains our main vehicle for providing an education service to all students from Years 7 to 10 and Year 12, I have been delighted to have seen the development of 'Teams' in order to provide students with a more interactive service. I am equally grateful to you for being patient with us as we develop our confidence and pedagogy as we begin to teach through this medium. It has become increasingly clear to me that the impact of introducing Teams teaching at this point in the lockdown will help us all maintain a purposeful momentum as we work through the final half term of the academic year.

As always, and especially at this time, we are exceptionally reliant upon your feedback to let us know what we are doing well and where you think we can further improve. Our commitment to continuous school improvement is a foundation of the working ethos for every member of staff; so please do get in touch if you have anything that you think would be helpful for us to know. It is so difficult to judge these things when you are not actually with the children together and monitoring progress and welfare constantly, as is usual practice.

Finally, following one of my earlier letters, some of the children have contacted me with tips on how to cook a pizza. I have loved reading your messages and you make it sound so easy. One of you even sent me a recipe for pizza dough which was really successful (as I passed it onto Mr Walton to make!) I will try harder. Any further suggestions or step by step recipes would be gratefully received.

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

I also wanted to share with you that I invested in a bike during lockdown and some hi-vis clothing so that I am safe. I haven't fallen off yet and I have managed a couple of substantial Derbyshire hills. It was all going so well until I cycled past some roadworks this week and I suddenly realised that my bright orange and grey top meant that I looked exactly like a traffic cone. Not the look that I was going for 😊

Missing you all so very much. I am looking forward to seeing you in our virtual assembly in a couple of weeks.

With my very best wishes

Mrs L J Walton

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L J Walton'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Executive Headteacher