



# 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)

4 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

May I thank you so very much for your support in the return to school. I am aware that it may have been an anxious time for you and for your child given the unprecedented times we are living in.

I have spent the first two days of term assessing the measures that we have put in place to ensure that students and staff alike can study and work in a safe, clean, calm and ordered environment. I am satisfied that these measures are working and I am exceptionally impressed at the maturity of our students who are following new expectations such as regular hand washing and adhering to one way systems seriously.

Over the next week, Mr de Rijk will be reviewing the break and lunch service to see if we can begin to offer a more complete provision in the weeks to come in a safe and socially distanced way with no compromise to our year group separation. There may also be one or two other 'tweaks' that Mr de Rijk will write to you about in due course.

I have conducted 'learning walks' at school over these past two days and I have been very impressed by the eagerness that the students are showing when it comes to their learning. We are acutely aware that your child's education must now be enhanced in order to make up for any gaps that may have occurred over 'lockdown'. Our teachers have planned to cover a lot of content this term so do please expect exercise books to be filling up rapidly, for there to be plenty of homework and for lessons to be driven at pace. Mrs Thawley (Deputy Headteacher with responsibility for Teaching and Learning) will write to you shortly with a summary of our accelerated learning diamond lessons so that you can understand how your child's lessons are planned and delivered. You will also receive information about the curriculum plan for each subject for the Autumn term shortly.

As for exam groups in Year 11 and Year 13, Mr de Rijk will oversee this area of the school this year. Given the anxiety that some students may feel due to possible missed content, Mr de Rijk will be working exceptionally closely with Heads of Department in monitoring student progress. We will also be putting together a great deal of catch up opportunities for all exam groups over the coming term; your child is in safe hands.

Finally, a special welcome to our new parents of Year 7 students; what a delight the children have been this week – so smart and so very polite – a complete joy. I know that they will be hugely successful.

Thank you once again for all that you do to support us at school.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Walton

Executive Headteacher

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