



# 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)  
Assistant Headteacher: **Mr M Kirkland** BSc (Hons)

17th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

At The Ripley Academy we put a lot of importance in working in partnership with parents and carers to ensure the safety of our students at all times. We all know that the holidays can sometimes be a worrying time for parents/carers as your children have more time to engage in risky behaviour.

It is likely that some children will spend more time on the internet or gaming during the holidays when they have substantially more time to do so. Where possible, talk to your child about their internet use. Different children will have different amounts of knowledge, risk-taking and resilience. Please talk with them about what they like to do online, where they go and who they talk to.

The most important thing to remember is to put online networking into a real life context. For example, would you let your child be in a crowd of unknown adults who may be swearing, using sexual innuendo or other things inappropriate for children to see and hear?

- Consider the online games they are playing and what age the other players may be
- Do you know the age-rating of those games? Is your child playing 18-rated games such as Grand Theft Auto or Call of Duty?
- What social networking apps are they using? What are they sharing and who with?
- Would you be happy with all of this in the real world?

Your children are part of an online generation where the virtual world is where the majority of their interactions take place. It is important to support them in developing and maintaining a healthy balance between the online and real world. It is easy to assume children are safe in the home but this is not always the case if they are taking risks online.

If you have any immediate concerns for the safety of a child over the holidays, please contact either; Call Derbyshire (Derbyshire County Council Social Services) on 01629 533190 or First Contact (Derby City Council Social Services) on 01332 641172.

There are a number of helplines signposted on our school website under the Parents/Safeguarding section at the bottom of the page that you can refer to if needed.

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

Our school website also has an 'Emotional Health and Wellbeing' page with a number of website links where you can gain further information or even refer yourself/your child to services for further support. Please see below for two key support services that offer instant support.

- Kooth - [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com) (confidential online counselling, support and advice service for young people)
  
- Mental Health Support Line 0800 028 0077 (open from 9am to midnight for young people and adults) [Telephone support for Derbyshire people experiencing anxiety or distress \(derbyshirehealthcareft.nhs.uk\)](http://derbyshirehealthcareft.nhs.uk)

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to welcoming our students back into school on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Miss J Scattergood  
Deputy Headteacher