



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)

20 December 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Following the letter that you received from the school's Chair of Governors, I find myself writing my very last letter to you as the school's Executive Headteacher. I am of course, delighted that I shall continue to work for the school in my new post in the Trust but it is only right that I should make some attempt to formally 'sign off' even if I cannot believe that this moment has come.

When I was asked to take on the headship at The Ripley Academy in 2017, I knew that it would be the honour of my professional life to serve you and your community. Like all of us, I will have made my fair share of errors along the way but I hope that I leave the school in a good place with strong foundations for the next headteacher and for the next stage of our school's journey. I believe that a leadership role is to be a custodian for a short period of time before handing over the baton to the next key holder and I am convinced that the school will, with the next inspirational leader, progress onto even greater success. I am very pleased with how far the school has come but there is much still to do; it's now time for the next person to accelerate progress even further.

I continue to love working with students; they make me smile every single day. Their resilience amazes me and in recent times, when we have all wavered under the strain of trying to live as normally as possible in a pandemic, it is the students who have carried us all, even in some darker moments.

When I was little, in my wildest dreams, I never would have imagined that I would be able to serve as a Headteacher and I would never have imagined that I would also have the opportunity to work in such a wonderful community such as this. I thank you for staying with me for the journey and for being with me every step of the way. I am thrilled that my headteacher colleague, Mr Bell, will take up the interim Executive Headteacher role from January to enable the Governors and the Trust to seek to appoint the very best headteacher from September 2022.

With my very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Lisa Walton
Executive Headteacher

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