



The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form

Executive Headteacher: Mrs H Frost-Briggs BA (Hons)



We are **AMBITIOUS**. We are **COMMITTED**. We are **PROUD**.

www.ripleyacademy.org
01773 746334
enquiries@ripleyacademy.org

Head of School: **Mr J de Rijk** BA (Hons)
Deputy Headteacher: **Mrs J Thawley** BSc (Hons)
Deputy Headteacher: **Mr M Kirkland** BSc (Hons)
Assistant Headteacher: **Mr S Kingsland** BSc (Hons)

9th December 2022

Good afternoon,

Update from the Executive Head Teacher

I'm writing to you all today with an update on some of the key things we have been working on over recent weeks.

Thank you

Firstly, may I offer my thanks to you all for your continued support of the school this term. Working together with parents and carers can and does make a significant difference to the success and progress of the students and we are extremely grateful for all your efforts in ensuring your child attends school regularly, on time and in the correct uniform.

The new Consequence System for managing behaviour

In my letter to parents and carers on the 9th November, I outlined the new consequence system that we had just introduced across Year 7-11 in order to have a positive impact on behaviour. We are really pleased with the students' response to this new system. It has been successful in driving up standards of behaviour in lessons and acts as a suitable deterrent for the vast majority of students not to disrupt precious learning time. When Senior Leaders walk around lessons, classrooms and learning are purposeful and focussed. Students are clear on the consequences should they choose to disrupt and we have noticed a recognisable improvement in this area.

The Standards Card

The introduction of the new Standards Card has driven up standards of uniform and punctuality across the school. Since the card was introduced, lateness to period 5 lessons has reduced significantly, which is encouraging to see. Students are also looking much smarter in their uniform, as there is now greater clarity regarding the consequences of wearing incorrect uniform. We continue to work with families where there is a long-standing uniform issue and support in resolving these issues.

The Ripley Big Ask

Student Voice is hugely important to me. This month, students across Year 7-11 completed a survey in lessons. The survey was aimed to glean their thoughts on safety, emotional health and wellbeing and how incidents of bullying

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

were dealt with. When we analysed the results of the survey across all students in Year 7-11, the vast majority of students reported that they felt safe in school, that they know how to keep themselves safe online, that they know who to go to in school if they need to report something and that they enjoy learning and are kind to other students. This was reassuring to me as a new Head Teacher to the school. My standards, however, are very high and I aspire for 100% of children to enjoy school, be happy, be kind and feel safe. Consequently, I have decided to ask all senior and pastoral middle leaders of the school to complete "The Ripley Big Ask" in the New Year in order to gain a deeper understanding of any issues so we can work quickly to improve any areas of the school which need it. All students across all seven year groups will be involved in Student Voice group sessions with these leaders where we will offer a space for them to share their thoughts and feelings with us on what they love about the school, what could be better, how the school deals with bullying, what behaviour is like and much more. I'm looking forward to hearing their thoughts.

After we've completed this piece of work, the following week will be about leaders feeding back to me on the outcomes of those meetings and an action plan being put together to bring "The Ripley Big Answer" where I will speak to students, parents and carers, staff and Governors to outline our plan to improve in any common areas cited by the students as areas for development.

I hope the students enjoy this opportunity to speak candidly and openly about their experience in school and I am confident that we will be able to get something really useful out of this process.

Rewards

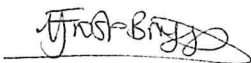
We would like to increase the consistency and enhance the quality of our current provision for rewards so students are clear about how, when and in what way they will be rewarded. Senior leaders are currently working on a new Rewards Policy where students will receive achievement points for being AMBITIOUS, COMMITTED and PROUD; following The Ripley Way. The New Year will see the launch of this new Rewards Policy, which will be shared with parents on our website in due course. I am looking forward to seeing how we can change the face of praise and rewards at Ripley.

Preparing for Christmas

We are looking forward to Christmas dinner on Wednesday 14th December where students and staff can enjoy their dinner and listen to some Christmas songs. I am told it is always a really lovely atmosphere so am looking forward to sharing in that. Mr de Rijk will write to you shortly to outline the end of term arrangements.

Thank you for your ongoing support and wishing you a lovely weekend and all the very best.

Yours sincerely



Mrs H Frost-Briggs

Executive Head Teacher