



The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form



Executive Headteacher: **Mrs H Frost-Briggs** BA (Hons)
We are **AMBITIOUS**. We are **COMMITTED**. We are **PROUD**.

26 January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

It is with great sadness that I write to you today to inform you that Amanda Turner, a member of our English department, has passed away. Amanda has been a committed teacher of English and second in department for many years, joining The Ripley Academy back in September 2014. She was loved among her colleagues, friends and students at The Ripley Academy and made a significant impact on the lives of young people.

My thoughts and best wishes go out to her family at this difficult time, especially to her husband Pete who works as a Teaching Assistant in the Learning Support Team at the school. Staff at the school are deeply saddened and shocked by the news and we look forward to standing side-by-side with Pete upon his return to school in support and solidarity to help him navigate his way through his loss.

My priority is disseminating this sad news to the students in a way which is controlled, supportive and calm, to ensure that all our young people can process the news. To this end, I will be telling all the students in rolling assemblies this afternoon before lunch, and we will offer space and time to those needing additional support. We will have a room open for students who might be struggling to process the news and the School Nurse will be in school this afternoon to support those who are finding the news difficult. We will communicate this to the students.

The children may indeed need additional support when they get home this evening and I welcome you to ask them about Mrs Turner and to share any stories with you about what she meant to them. A recommended website to help young people deal with bereavement or grief can be found below with activities which you may choose to do with your child:

[Activities for bereaved children and young people | Download for free | Winston's Wish \(winstonswish.org\)](#)

I am extremely lucky that I work with a team of exemplary staff who are committed to prioritising the wellbeing of the students and keen to help them come to terms with this sad news, despite experiencing many emotions and feelings themselves. I am sure there will be times where this is difficult, and I thank you for your patience and understanding at this sad time.

Yours

Mrs Helen Frost-Briggs
Executive Head Teacher
John Flamsted Community School and The Ripley Academy

