



# The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form



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

## The Ripley Big Ask 2.0 and The Big Answer!

Good afternoon,

This term, I have been working on a project across the school on which I wanted to take the opportunity to feed back to you. Parents/carers who had a child with us last year may remember The Big Ask where Senior and Middle Leaders met with all the students across the school in a mass student voice activity to glean their thoughts and feelings on what was working well at The Ripley Academy and where improvements needed to be made.

Off the back of this piece of work last year, the students were able to drive some changes in the school and a year down the line, we wanted to give the students the opportunity to reflect on what has improved (or indeed for Year 7s what they like about joining us!) and to hear where students would now like further improvements. To this end, we have completed The Big Ask 2.0!

I recently fed back to Year 7-10 students in assembly on The Big Answer 2.0 and I'd like to share a recorded message with parents/carers so you can get a feel for what the children told us and how we are responding. You can find the video here:

<https://youtu.be/SSqB3AGZFpg>

As you will see, a key focus in this presentation is on the continuation of the development of a culture of kindness where derogatory language is not tolerated. In the assembly, I made a pledge to the students on behalf of all the staff. Staff will commit to this pledge through wearing their Kindness Champion badges on their lanyards:

### Our pledge

**At TRA, we understand that if derogatory language is heard and not challenged, that this empowers the agents of unkindness and reinforces a misconception that this behaviour is tolerated in our school.**

- **We are ambitious** in wanting to eradicate all derogatory language of any kind at Ripley Academy
- **We are committed** to challenging derogatory language pertaining to protected characteristics such as ethnicity, sex and sexual orientation every time and using any opportunity where it arises, to educate.
- **We are proud** of our differences and communicate this vision to our students through The Ripley Way



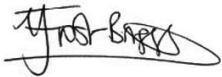
I have been delighted with how the students have responded to our Kindness Campaign with hundreds of kindness achievement points having been accrued in only a matter of weeks.

Any support you can give us to eradicate the use of derogatory language in school by reinforcing the messages from the assembly would be most appreciated. Being explicit with the terms that I don't expect students to use was difficult and a decision I deliberated on for some time with my Leadership Team. I wanted to be clear, fair but sensitive in approach as the students themselves had asked for this level of clarity so they knew exactly what they needed to do to not get this wrong.

I look forward to continuing to foster a culture at Ripley whereby we embrace and celebrate our differences, are kind to one another and celebrate our own and each others' successes. This is The Ripley Way!

Wishing you all a lovely half-term holiday.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Frost-Briggs', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Helen Frost-Briggs

Executive Head Teacher

The Ripley Academy and John Flamsteed Community School