



The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form



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

7th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Personal Development Consultation

Our Personal Development curriculum is designed to help prepare your child for post 16 options and life after school; it is a vital part of their wider education outside of their academic studies. Personal Development is taught through six themes with content becoming increasingly complex throughout years 7-11. These themes are:

1. **Health and Wellbeing.** This covers aspects of puberty, healthy and unhealthy relationships and how to lead a healthy lifestyle both physically and mentally
2. **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).** This covers statutory RSE content such as healthy and unhealthy relationships, including sexual relationships
3. **Celebrating Diversity and Equality.** This explores ideas around different cultures, faiths, sexual orientations and world issues such as the history of the UN, NATO and the Commonwealth
4. **Rights, Responsibilities and British values.** This considers politics and parliament, fundamental British values, laws, human rights and terrorism
5. **Life Beyond School.** This introduces students to careers and managing money
6. **Staying Safe Online and Offline.** This explores the dangers of drugs, gangs and cyber bullying in addition to forced marriage and modern-day slavery

Please note the topics above are illustrative and not an exhaustive list of content coverage. All topics are taught in an age-appropriate manner from years 7-11 by experienced professionals. For more information on which topics are taught and when, please visit our website, which can be found here:

[Personal Development - The Ripley Academy](#)

The trust policy pertaining to 'Relationships and Sex Education and Physical Health and Mental Wellbeing Education' is currently being reviewed. During the review process of this policy, it is a statutory requirement for us to consult with parents. I am sharing a copy of the draft policy along with this letter for your reference. Should you wish to provide any feedback or comments you can do so by following this link [Parental consultation](#). The consultation will close on Sunday 9th February 2025.

RSE is statutory within all schools and colleges for students aged 5-16 years, but parents/carers do have the right to withdraw their child from the sex education elements of this provision. However, there is no right to withdraw from National Curriculum Science, which includes elements of sex education such as puberty and reproduction. The final page of the policy (Appendix E) is the parent withdrawal form that



should be completed and returned to the school for the attention of Mr J De Rijk if you wish to withdraw your child from sex education elements of RSE lessons.

If you have any further questions relating to this topic, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Tollervey

Head of CEIAG and Personal Development



Mrs J Thawley

Deputy Head Teacher