



# Head Teacher's Newsletter

## SPRING TERM 2024

Issue No 03 | March 2024

### Neurodiversity Week in March



We welcomed parents and carers of our neurodiverse students into the school for a coffee morning. The Neurohub came to present followed by a question-and-answer opportunity with cake! Thank you for all of those parents and carers who came to support this.

Our SEND team also did a Bake Sale on this day to raise money for a local charity.

### Mrs Frost-Briggs' message of the month!



The spring term at The Ripley Academy has been another action-packed one full of widening horizons, opportunities and achievements.

A big piece of work we have been doing this term has been The Big Ask 2.0 where senior and middle leaders of the school have done a large scale Student Voice activity with all students across the Academy in small groups, in order to understand how they feel about the school, what's going well, what they think to behaviour across the school, what their opinions are of teaching and learning and how their educational experience could be further enhanced. This month, I will be working on a response to the students in The Big Answer 2.0 which I will communicate to parents and carers as well as to the students during the summer term. This will be full of ideas as to how to make further improvements.

I would like to wish all families of The Ripley Academy a wonderful holiday this Easter and hope you are able to spend some quality time together.

### Year 10 Maths Feast

Our remarkable maths students were the top team of 14 teams, across many schools in Derbyshire after 4 rounds of problem-solving, practical, arithmetic and team work challenge tasks. Well done Year 10 mathematicians !!

In March, the Royal Navy chefs visited our Year 10s and delivered a task to prepare and cook a two-course meal of chicken kiev and fondant potatoes with sticky toffee pudding. The Navy Chefs were very impressed with the work ethic and presentations of the groups' dishes. This concluded with a careers presentation about the opportunities of being a Royal Navy chef.



# World Book Day celebrations!



## UK Maths Challenge

50 Year 9 and 10 students took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. The challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques. Over 250,000 students took part across the UK with the top 40% of students nationally receiving a gold, silver or bronze certificate.

13 of our students have been awarded a certificate! Ruby F was the 'Best in School' with a silver certificate. Evan J, Zak S, Lucas W, William W-B, Kye F, Daniel H, Elijah L, Tomas L, Aaron N, Imogen S, Paige S and Dexter W all gained bronze certificates. We are so proud of you!

### Shout Out!

#### Year 9 Football Development Squad!



On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March a team of Year 9 students competed in the first round of a football tournament which took place at Swanwick Hall school. The Ripley team played in a total of three matches against teams from Ilkeston, Belper and Swanwick.

All games were hard fought with committed performances from every player. Cain J did a great job in leading the team as captain and also finished as top scorer! Other notable performances came from Callum B in midfield and Connor C in goal. The team finished top of their group with two wins and one loss. We now eagerly await the next round in July!

## New online library

We're really excited at the introduction of TRA's online library, provided by ePlatform. This gives students access to 1000s of book titles with a range of great adaptations that can be made (background colour, font size, line spacing) but which also have a 'read aloud' feature where students can follow along.

The service also provides access to a wide variety of audio books if students prefer to listen.

We hope that you will support your child's reading at home as we embark on the journey to ensure that all of our students are 'Remarkable Readers.'

### Shout Out!

#### Year 7 Football Finals!



Our Year 7 Football team competed in the District Football Finals. The team were without their usual manager, Mr Morris, who had expertly guided them to the finals but they quickly adapted caretaker manager Mr Thomas.

In a third-place playoff against local rivals John Flamsteed, Ripley made a scintillating start and led 4-1 at half-time. JF came out fighting in the second half but Ripley managed to hold on to their lead, winning 4-3 at the final whistle - a great achievement!



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The Ripley Academy